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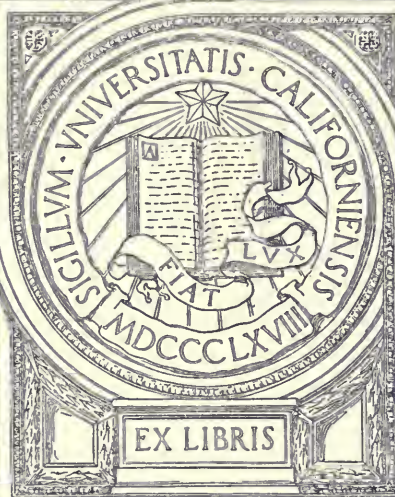


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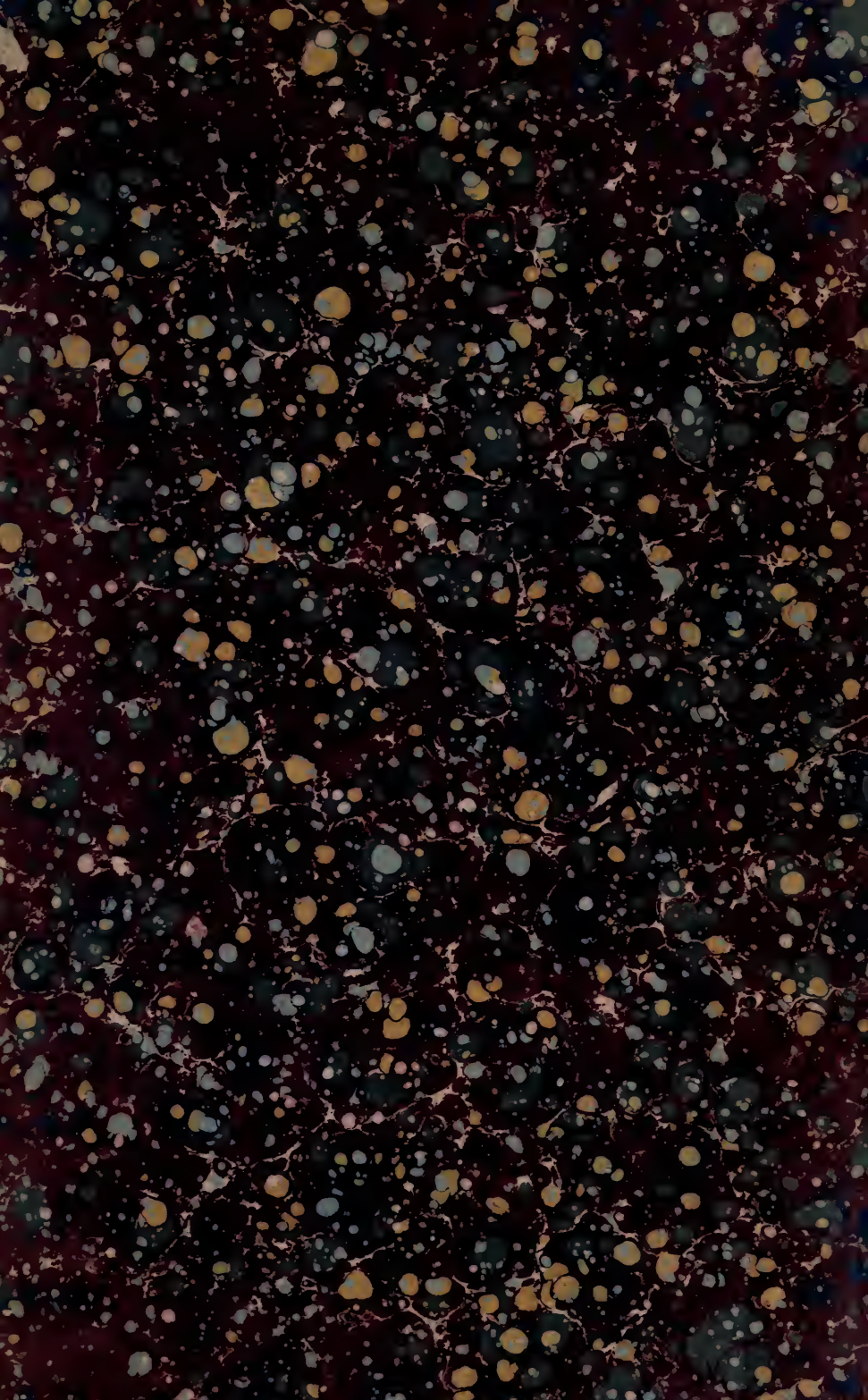
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VETERANS
OF THE
SEVENTH REGIMENT,
NATIONAL GUARD, S. N. Y.

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REPORT TO THE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATE OF THE
NATION



Veterans
of the
SEVENTH REGIMENT,
NATIONAL GUARD, S. N. Y.



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INTRODUCTION.

In consequence of an extra official statement of several officers of the 1st and 2d Divisions, N. G. S. N. Y., which appeared in the Press of the City of New York, and in printed circulars, on February 19, 1884, and which was calculated to very much misrepresent the character, objects, and statutory rights and privileges of the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., as a chartered independent military organization in the reserve militia of the State; the facts contained in the following pages are, by direction of the

VETERANS OF THE SEVENTH REGIMENT NATIONAL GUARD S. N. Y.,

published for the information of all concerned.

L. W. WINCHESTER, Colonel and Chairman,
CHAS. ROOME,
WILLIAM A. DARLING,
JACKSON S. SCHULTZ,
WILLIAM A. POND,
WILLIAM H. MONTANYE,
HENRY H. HOLLY,

Committee.

NEW YORK, April 2, 1884.

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OFFICERS

OF THE VETERANS OF THE SEVENTH REGIMENT, NATIONAL GUARD S. N. Y.

APRIL 1860 TO APRIL 1861.

Colonel John M. Catlin.*
 Lieutenant-Colonel Morgan L. Smith.
 Major James B. Wilson.
 Adjutant Asher Taylor.
 Quartermaster E. T. Backhouse.
 Paymaster Thomas M. Adriance.
 Commissary Aaron Kemp.
 Chaplain, Rev. Samuel D. Denison.
 Captain Wright F. Conger.
 Captain Joseph M. Cooper.
 Captain J. L. Everitt.
 Captain Wm. H. Curtis.
 Captain Edward A. Lambert.
 Captain Cyrus H. Loutrel.
 Captain Henry Meigs, Jr.
 Captain David T. Valentine.
 Lieutenant Jackson S. Schultz.
 Lieutenant Washington Durbrow.
 Lieutenant John Armstrong.
 Lieutenant John M. Davis.
 Lieutenant Lewis H. Watts.
 Lieutenant Linus W. Stevens.
 Lieutenant Theodore W. Todd.
 Lieutenant George G. Waters.

* Linus W. Stevens succeeded Col. John M. Catlin as Colonel of the Veterans, April, 1861.

OFFICERS

OF THE VETERANS OF THE SEVENTH REGIMENT,
NATIONAL GUARD S. N. Y.

APRIL 1883 TO APRIL 1884.

COLONEL LOCKE W. WINCHESTER.

LIEUT.-COLONEL CHARLES B. BOSTWICK.

MAJOR JOHN H. KEMP.

ADJUTANT HENRY L. FREELAND.

SURGEON T. M. CHEESMAN, M.D.

ASST. SURGEON J. C. BARRON, M.D.

QUARTERMASTER HENRY H. HOLLY.

PAYMASTER EDWARD A. KINGSLAND.

COMMISSARY EDWARD KEMP.

CHAPLAIN REV. J. TUTTLE SMITH, D.D.

Captains.**Lieutenants.**

HENRY I. HAYDEN.....	JOHN T. BAKER.
JOHN C. GIFFING.....	RICHARD L. SALISBURY.
JOHN W. MURRAY..	HENRY W. T. MALL.
WILLIAM H. RIBLET.....	LORENZO G. WOODHOUSE.
WILLIAM A. SPEAIGHT.....	CHARLES L. FLEMING.
EDWARD O. BIRD.....	FREDERICK A. GOODWIN.
LYMAN TIFFANY.....	WILLIAM MOORES.
HENRY C. SHUMWAY.....	JOHN W. SPICER
EDWARD G. ARTHUR.....	W. GAYER DOMINICK.
JAMES RAY.....	DAVID CROCKER.

EXTRACTS FROM CHARTER AND AMENDMENTS.

AN ACT to Incorporate the Veterans of the National Guard,
Seventh Regiment, First Division, New York State Militia.

Passed March 11, 1861.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :

Section 1.—Linus W. Stevens, Morgan L. Smith, John M. Catlin, Washington R. Vermilye, Andrew A. Bremner, Abram Duryee, Marshall Lefferts, Philetus H. Holt, Charles Roome, Henry Meigs, Jr., Cyrus H. Loutrel, John H. Brower, Asher Taylor, Thomas M. Adriance, David T. Valentine, Edward A. Lambert, James B. Wilson, Samuel D. Denison, Theodore W. Todd, William Everdell, and such other persons as now are associated as the Veterans of the National Guard, or may hereafter become associated with them, are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of “The Veterans of the National Guard.”

Sec. 2.—The objects of said corporation are to afford pecuniary relief to indigent or reduced members, and their widows and children; to promote social union and fellowship, and preserve and continue the recollections of service in the National Guard.

Sec. 3.—The said corporation shall have power to make and adopt a Constitution and By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, for the admission of members, and their government, the election of officers and their duties, the suspending or expelling of members, and for the safe-keeping of its property and funds, and from time to time to alter or repeal such Constitution, By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations. The present officers shall hold their respective offices until others are chosen in their places.

* * * * *

Sec. 6.—This act shall take effect immediately.

CHAPTER 314.

AN ACT to amend Chapter Forty-one of the Laws of eighteen hundred and sixty-one, entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Veterans of the National Guard, Seventh Regiment, First Division, New York State Militia."

Passed May 23, 1878.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 1 of Chapter forty-one of the laws of eighteen hundred and sixty-one, entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Veterans of the National Guard, Seventh Regiment, First Division, New York State Militia," is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1. Linus W. Stephens, Morgan L. Smith, John M. Catlin, Washington R. Vermilye, and such other persons as now are associated as the Veterans of the National Guard, or may hereafter become associated with them, are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of "The Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y."

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

THE BENEVOLENT FUND OF THE VETERANS OF
THE SEVENTH REGIMENT, N. G. S. N. Y.

CHAPTER 89.

AN ACT to amend Chapter Forty-one of the Laws of eighteen hundred and sixty-one, entitled, "An Act to Incorporate the Veterans of the National Guard, Seventh Regiment, First Division, New York State Militia."

Passed April 9th, 1882, three-fourths being present.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1.—Section Four of Chapter Forty-one of the Laws of eighteen hundred and sixty-one, entitled, "An Act to Incorporate

the Veterans of the National Guard, Seventh Regiment, First Division, New York State Militia," is hereby amended to read as follows :

Section 4.—The said Corporation may purchase and hold real or personal estate, and is authorized to accumulate a fund for the pecuniary relief of indigent and reduced members, and of their widows and children, to be called the "Benevolent Fund of the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y.," and said Fund shall be administered by Officers of said Association, who shall be the Colonel, Paymaster, and Chaplain of said Association, as Trustees. The said Fund shall be invested in the manner required by law for the investment of trust funds, and no more than its income shall be used or disbursed in any one year. Additions to the said Fund may be made by appropriations from the said Association, by donation, and by legacies and devises to the said Association, which it is hereby authorized to receive and apply in the manner aforesaid.

This Act shall take effect immediately.

EXTRACTS FROM THE CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

OFFICERS.

The officers of the Association shall be a Colonel, Lieut.-Colonel, Major, Adjutant, Quartermaster, Paymaster, Chaplain, Commissary, Surgeon, ten Captains and ten Lieutenants, who shall constitute a Board of Management, and who shall conduct the affairs of the Association.

The said Colonel, Lieut.-Colonel, Major, Adjutant and Paymaster shall respectively be ex-officio President, first and second Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer.

All officers shall hold office for two years.

* * * * *

ARTICLE IV.

Section 1. Any person who shall have received an honorable discharge, or become entitled thereto, from the former Twenty-seventh, present Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., having served therein the full term required by law at the date of his enlistment (seven years under the old law, or five years under the present law), or who, being a member of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., may have entered the Army or Navy of the United States during the War of the Rebellion, and been honorably discharged from such service, or who may remain in the Army or Navy of the United States, shall be eligible to membership in this Association.

ARTICLE V.

UNIFORMED BATTALION.

The Uniformed Battalion, as organized by this Association, shall consist of such members as shall have uniformed and subscribed to its by-laws.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE INTRODUCTION WHICH
 APPEARED IN THE PRESS, AND IN CIRCULARS,
 ON FEBRUARY 19TH, 1884.

A STATEMENT OF THE

Reasons why regiments of the National Guard S. N. Y. should not allow their names and numerical designations to be used by any UNIFORMED battalions, organizations or associations.

I.—The practical result of the existence of *uniformed* organizations bearing the names and numerical designations of regiments of the National Guard has been to induce young men, who would otherwise continue to perform active military duty in the National Guard, to take their discharge from the service of the State to join the *uniformed* veteran battalions. For this reason the extraordinary efforts to make such uniformed battalions attractive by expensive and showy uniforms, by parades and excursions, and by other festivities, is a positive detriment to the National Guard, and the existence of such *uniformed* veteran battalions has become a standing menace to the strength and welfare of the regiments whose names they have assumed.

II.—The names and numerical designations of the National Guard regiments have been assumed and used by the *uniformed* veteran battalions without the authority of the regiments or of their officers, and have of late been carried upon parades and excursions and to balls and dinners, in this and other States. Those who are charged by law with the maintenance of the good name of any regiment should not be held responsible for the conduct of those over whom they have no control ; but so long as any *uniformed* battalion bears the name of a National Guard regiment, such regiment will be held responsible by the public for any want of discipline in such *uniformed* battalion, and for the unsoldierly and ungentlemanly conduct of any of its members while in uniform. Would any business man allow his name or the name of his firm, or would any corporation allow its name to be used by persons, however respectable, who are not responsible to or subject to the orders of such firm or corporation? And yet the National Guard regiments have quietly submitted to the assumption and use of their names and numbers by those who were once

members of these regiments, but who are no longer held to any duty therein, and are not responsible for their present character and welfare.

III.—An important objection to the use of the names and numerical designations of the National Guard regiments by the *uniformed* veteran battalions, is the fact that such organizations assume and use in an official manner, and upon parades and public occasions, the military insignia and the military titles which belong only to officers who hold or have held commissions in the regular or volunteer service of the United States, or in the National Guard and militia of the several States. It is fair to presume that military titles are of some value to those who have won them on the battle-field, or by long and faithful service in the regular army or the National Guard ; but in these *uniformed* veteran battalions military titles are thoughtlessly assumed, and are officially and publicly used by persons who have never held commissions that entitled them to such titles, rank and distinction. It is noticeable that in organizations of the veterans of the late war this abuse does not exist, and military titles, gallantly earned, are duly respected, and they are not assumed by those who have never legally held them. When the attention of honorable men is called to the fact that, by assuming and using military titles to which they have no right, a great injustice is done to those who have held or now hold military commissions, it can hardly be supposed that the practice will be continued.

IV.—The unauthorized wearing of military uniforms by organizations not a part of the United States Army or of the National Guard, and not veterans of the late war, depreciates the character and reputation of all military service and is an affront to all, whether officers or privates, who are held by law to the military service of the State or the Nation. Men of mature years who leave their business to parade the public streets with music and banners, and decked out with sword, chapeau and feathers, or who consent to appear in public in other than the ordinary attire of the citizen and the gentleman, should surely have some substantial reason or some manly and noble object to justify them in so doing and to secure themselves from public ridicule. Such an object is apparent in the parades of the National Guard and of the veterans of former wars, and is claimed to exist in the parades

of some benevolent, Masonic, and other societies. Even boys at school wear military uniforms without objection, because it contributes to their discipline and physical improvement. But what reason, excuse or apology can there be for the parade or public appearance in ostentatious military uniform of the ex-members of a militia organization who are legally exempt from military duty, who are not organized for the defense of the city, the State, or the country, and who have no well-recognized and generally approved object for semi-military parade or fantastic display.

V. —The *uniformed* “veteran” battalions should not be allowed to use the names and numerical designations of National Guard regiments, because the assumption of the name of “veteran” by the very young men who publicly appear in the uniform of such battalions is discourteous to the gallant *veterans* of the last war, as well as to those who by long and distinguished service in the National Guard and by mature years, may be fairly entitled to that designation. To be eligible to wear the regalia of these *uniformed* “veteran” battalions, it is only necessary to perform five years of indifferent service in the militia of the State, and at the age of twenty-three years young men may, and sometimes do, lay aside the modest uniform of the private soldier in the National Guard in exchange for the chapeau and sword and uniform of a general officer, and parade in public as “veterans.” It is clearly the duty of the National Guard regiments to protect the “veterans” of the war, as well as the real “veterans” of the National Guard, from the ridicule which this abuse brings upon that distinguished and honorable title.

Associations of the exempt and veteran members of the National Guard regiments for benevolent and social purposes, and to cherish and preserve pleasant memories of the service, are universally approved, and have the hearty sympathy and support of every officer and member serving in the National Guard; and every man who has faithfully served his term of enlistment should be proud to be a member of such an association. It is only the *uniformed* battalions, composed of exempt members of the National Guard, that are no credit but a positive detriment to the regiments whose names and numerical designations they, without authority, assume and use.

The undersigned, commandants of regiments of the National Guard S. N. Y., approve of the above statement, and recommend that the use of the names and numerical designations of regiments by *uniformed* battalions, organizations or associations be prohibited.

(Signed)

EMMONS CLARK, Colonel Seventh Regiment.
 GEORGE D. SCOTT, Colonel Eighth Regiment.
 WM. SEWARD, Jr., Colonel Ninth Regiment.
 FREDERICK UNBEKANT, Colonel Eleventh Regiment.
 JAMES H. JONES, Colonel Twelfth Regiment.
 JAMES McLEER, Colonel Fourteenth Regiment.
 JOSIAH PORTER, Colonel Twenty-second Regiment.
 RODNEY C. WARD, Colonel Twenty-third Regiment.
 LOUIS FINKELMEIER, Colonel Thirty-second Regiment.
 TRUMAN V. TUTTLE, Colonel Forty-seventh Regiment.
 JAMES CAVANAGH, Colonel Sixty-ninth Regiment.
 RICHARD VOSE, Colonel Seventy-first Regiment.

The undersigned, General officers of the National Guard S. N. Y., approve of the above recommendation of commandants of regiments.

(Signed)

ALEXANDER SHALER, Major-General Commanding First Division.
 W. G. WARD, Brigadier-General Commanding First Brigade.
 LOUIS FITZGERALD, Brigadier-General Commanding Second Brigade.
 C. T. CHRISTENSEN, Brigadier-General Third Brigade, Commanding Second Division.
 WILLIAM H. BROWNELL, Brigadier-General Commanding Fourth Brigade.

Dated New York and Brooklyn, February, 1884.

NEW YORK, March 3, 1884.

MAJOR-GENERAL ALEXANDER SHALER,

NEW YORK :

GENERAL—

I have concluded, after mature consideration, to withdraw my signature from the statement published some days since, affecting the uniformed battalions of the National Guard. In the hasty perusal of the paper when presented to me for signature I failed to properly weigh the harsh expressions, unjust aspersions, and unmerited rebuke contained therein. I feel that by my action I have inflicted deep wounds upon those I consider it an honor to call friends, and this being repugnant to my soldierly instincts, leads me to ask that my signature be stricken from the paper in question. I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

WILLIAM SEWARD Jr.,

Colonel Ninth Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTY-THIRD REGIMENT, }
March 8, 1884, }

SIR: In reply to the resolutions adopted by your association February 21, relative to my action in signing a circular deprecating the wearing of uniforms by exempt members of the National Guard and the assumption of military titles and insignia of rank by the officers of the Uniformed Veteran Battalion, such officers not being commissioned by the State: I have to reply, that, while conceding that courtesy would seem to demand that the responsible heads of the Uniformed Veteran Battalion should have been notified of the contemplated action of the signers of the document in question previous to its being given to the public through the medium of the press, I feel that I cannot consistently or honorably withdraw my signature therefrom or recede from the position taken by me.

A careful consideration of the document convinces me upon reflection that it contains statements which do not apply to the Veteran Battalion of the Twenty-third Regiment, unwarrantable expressions, that I should insist upon having expunged before signature, were the matter again to be submitted to me. My action was entirely free from any personal feeling and purely of an official character as the commanding officer of the Twenty-third Regiment. Respectfully,

RODNEY C. WARD.

To FREDRICK H. RAND, Secretary.

NEW YORK, February 20, 1884.

At a meeting of the Board of Management of the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., held this day, the following was unanimously adopted :

Whereas, the Constitution of the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., provides in Article 5 for a Uniformed Battalion within its membership, and whereas the propriety of the adoption of said Article has been assailed, as being detrimental to the welfare of the National Guard, in a printed circular, with the name of Col. Emmons Clark, Commanding the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., as its leading signer.

Therefore, be it resolved that a Committee be appointed to investigate the matter, and report at a meeting of the Association, at as early a day as practicable.

H. L. FREELAND,
Adjutant and Ex-officio Secretary.

COLONEL WINCHESTER'S REPLY TO THE STATEMENT.

HEADQUARTERS VETERANS OF THE SEVENTH REGT., }
NATIONAL GUARD S. N. Y., }
NEW YORK, February 23, 1884. }

In order to prevent misunderstanding and misapprehension on the part of the public, and the members of the Veteran Association, which I have the honor to command, in regard to the circular issued by some of the Colonels and Generals of the First and Second Division, relating to Uniformed Battalions, which has been so suddenly sprung upon us, I desire to say that we cannot but express our astonishment and amazement that Col. Emmons Clark, commanding the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., should have signed such a circular. I have never, since my election to the Command of the Veteran Association and the Uniformed Battalion, received one word, officially, from Col. Clark or from any officer of the Seventh Regiment, that the Uniformed Battalion was a detriment to the Regiment. Had any formal notice been sent to me or any other officer of the Battalion, requesting an interview, one cer-

tainly would have been accorded, and we believe that any misunderstanding would unquestionably have been adjusted. What seems strange to us is this: that Col. Clark, living as it were under the same roof, and in daily intercourse with us, and *always* apparently of the pleasantest nature, should not have in some manner suggested to us that such a circular was being prepared, and was about to be issued. It seems to us unkind, ungenerous, and unmanly; it is an apparent insult, and intended to degrade the officers and members of the Uniformed Battalion, as well as the members of the whole Association. Joined together as we are for one sole object, to aid and benefit the Seventh Regiment in every way possible, and conscientiously believing that we were aiding and benefiting the Regiment by our acts, we feel that no more unfair way of attacking us could possibly be found. Among those who are uniformed will be found the oldest and most distinguished and esteemed ex-members of the Seventh Regiment, many of whom held office for a life-time, and devoted a life service to the benefit and discipline of the Regiment, "before many of the present officers were born," and many of them distinguished themselves during the War of the Rebellion. Their sons, their grandsons, and other relatives are serving in the Regiment to-day.

There is not one among us who would ever have put on the uniform that has been so fiercely characterized by the circular, had we for one moment imagined that we were not doing the Regiment a service.

A committee has been appointed to investigate the whole matter, and we ask the public to suspend judgment in this case until a report is made, which will be done at an early date.

The great injury intended is weakened by the vulgar and ungentelemanly expressions contained in the circular.

Very respectfully,

L. W. WINCHESTER,
Colonel Commanding.

COLONEL EMMONS CLARK'S REPLY TO COLONEL WINCHESTER.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGIMENT, N. Y. S. N. G., }
 NEW YORK, February 26, 1884. }

If ex-Quartermaster L. W. Winchester, who is President of the Veteran Association of this Regiment and nominally Colonel thereof, had attempted, in his circular dated February 23, to answer any part of the statement recently published and signed by all the Generals and Colonels of the National Guard in New York and Brooklyn, it is probable that some of those officers who he accuses of "vulgar and ungentlemanly expressions" might have thought proper to reply. But the *Army and Navy Journal*, the highest authority in the United States on Army and National Guard affairs, in its issue of February 23, answers them as follows:

"The man who wears a uniform or assumes a title to which he has no legal claim is possessing himself, so far as in his power, of property to which he has no right. The National Guard of New York have been especial sufferers from this form of dishonest appropriation, until their patience has finally become exhausted, and some of them have united in a vigorous protest against the nuisance."

Instead of defending the assumption and use of military titles by men who have never fairly earned them in any military service, and the wearing of military uniforms by men who are not in the military service of the State or the Nation and who are not veterans of the late war, the circular referred to is evidently intended to divert public attention by a tirade of personal abuse of the Colonel of the Seventh Regiment. The undersigned cannot be drawn into any *personal* controversy on a subject which concerns only the welfare of the National Guard; nor can he be induced to assume an attitude personally hostile to any part of the exempt and veteran members of the Seventh Regiment. It is necessary, however, to state, in reply to the circular, that it is a pretense for the writer thereof to assert that he did not know that the Colonel of the Seventh Regiment and many of its officers and members, although on friendly terms with the officers and members of the *Uniformed Veteran Corps*, were very hostile to the existence of such corps, for the reason that they believed it to be detrimental to the interests and welfare of the Regi-

ment. In May, 1875, the undersigned and a committee of the Board of Officers of the Seventh Regiment, *officially* called the attention of the then Commandant of this *Uniformed Veteran Corps* to the injury done to the Regiment by the existence of such corps, and from that day to this there have been periodical outbreaks,* though no public demonstrations, of this feeling. It has been often predicted, and by many persons, that an open conflict must come, sooner or later, between the Seventh Regiment and this *Uniformed Veteran Corps*, in which one or the other must unconditionally surrender, and any one prominently connected with either cannot be ignorant of the facts as above stated. If this necessary action had been taken only by the Colonel of the *Seventh* Regiment, or by its Board of officers, some notice would probably have been given of the publication of the impending protest; but as it was the *joint* action† of the Generals and Colonels of the First and Second Divisions, without an exception, in defense of the interests of the whole National Guard, no such notice could be expected or was advisable. The writer of this remarkable circular would seem to convey the idea that the Seventh is the only regiment in New York and Brooklyn, and that its Colonel is the only one holding that rank. He is hereby informed that the Seventh Regiment is only an eighth part of the National Guard of the two cities; that the five Generals and the eleven other Colonels who signed the statement to which he objects are men of large experience and who have earned the commissions they hold and the titles they bear; that they are as competent to

* Colonel Emmons Clark in a communication to General Marshall Lefferts in May, 1875, in reference to a proposed joint trip of the Seventh Regiment and Uniformed Battalion to Boston, expressed an opinion, that the adoption of the present uniform, would tend to induce young men to leave the regiment, earlier than they otherwise would, in order to join the Uniformed Battalion, but experience proved that he was mistaken, and in consequence of the many cordial and affable communications from Colonel Emmons Clark (hereinafter printed), it was concluded, that he had withdrawn his objection. No communication has at any time been received by the Board of Officers of the Veterans, in reference to the uniform, from a Committee appointed by the Board of Officers of the Seventh Regiment. The Board of Officers of the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment are not cognizant of the periodical outbreaks referred to.

† While Colonel Clark intimates in the foregoing communication that the statement was published at the instigation and after conference with the other officers of the National Guard whose names are signed thereto, the committee have positive assurance that he was the author of the statement, and that he personally presented it to most of the other officers for their signature.

judge of what is detrimental to the regiments they command, and to the National Guard generally, as any ex-staff officer of this or any other regiment; that five of these officers are graduates of the Seventh Regiment and love that organization as well as he does, and far more wisely; that six of them, viz., Shaler, Christensen, Fitzgerald, McLeer, Porter and Cavanagh, are veterans of the late war, and entered the service of the United States in 1861, about the same time that the writer of the circular retired from the militia to the congenial pursuits of peace. No better evidence is needed that these *uniformed veteran battalions* should be abolished than the fact that the commander of the largest of them, in a public circular, can deliberately apply to these real veterans of the late war, and to the other distinguished National Guard officers signing the statement, such epithets as "vulgar and ungentlemanly," and to the Colonel of the regiment in which he was once a staff officer, a variety of additional ones. Vituperation must have become a profession.

That the public may understand one important part of this matter, so far as the Seventh Regiment is concerned, it is necessary to state that there are in the City of New York and vicinity about 3,000 exempt or veteran members; that of this number about 1,200, more or less, are members of an association called the "Veterans of the Seventh Regiment," chartered, not for *military*, but for benevolent and social purposes; that of this 1,200 members of this association about 400 have obtained and worn military uniforms, and their officers wear the military insignia of rank or grade, although in express violation of Section 59, Chapter 299, Laws of 1883;* that the exempt or veteran members of the regiment who do not wear uniforms, say 2,500 in number, are, so far as known, opposed to the *uniformed Veteran Corps*; that the 400 uniformed members of the Association have obtained control of it; that the *ununiformed* members of the Association are practically excluded from office or from any part in its management, and, therefore, naturally absent themselves from its meetings; that the usefulness of the Association is greatly impaired because the men who control it are chiefly interested in fancy uni-

* By reference to the section referred to, hereinafter printed, p. 60, it will be seen that Colonel Clark is in error.

forms, parades, excursions, and other festivities; that consequently the benevolent fund of the Association, which should long since have reached a large amount, is now only \$5,000, and very inadequate to the relief of needy members and their families; * and that some of the members of the *uniformed veteran corps* who procured uniforms, supposing that they were benefiting or honoring the regiment thereby, have long since laid them aside and have refused to wear them again in street parades or on any other occasion. While the President or commanding officer of the Association may probably represent a majority of the 400 *uniformed* members of the Association, he does not properly represent the *ununiformed* members to any considerable extent, nor the exempt and veteran members who are not enrolled in the Association, nor all of the members who have been induced to procure uniforms. The time may come when the ununiformed members of the Association and the *uniformed* members who desire to promote the interests of the regiment, will assert their rights and restore the Association to its legal and legitimate purposes.

EMMONS CLARK,
Colonel Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y.

* See Supplementary Report of the Committee hereinafter printed, p. 24, from which it will be seen that Colonel Clark is again in error.

NEW YORK, March 1, 1884.

REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE VETERANS
OF THE SEVENTH REGIMENT, N. G. S. N. Y.

COLONEL LOCKE W. WINCHESTER,

Commanding Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y.:

DEAR SIR—We, the undersigned members of the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, National Guard, S. N. Y., respectfully request that a special meeting of the Association be called for Saturday evening, March 8th, at 8 o'clock, to hear the report of the Committee of the Board of Management, appointed February 20th, to investigate a Statement issued and signed by some of the Colonels of the various regiments, of which Colonel Clark was the first signer, and to transact such other business as may be brought before the meeting.

WM. R. MACDIARMID,
H. L. FREELAND,
W. A. HOEBER,
GEORGE P. EDGAR,
FRED A. GOODWIN,
EDWARD A. KINGSLAND,
W. H. JACKSON,
CHAS. B. BOSTWICK,
JAS. BLEECKER,
FRANCIS A. SILVA.

HEADQUARTERS VETERANS OF THE SEVENTH REGT.,
NATIONAL GUARD, S. N. Y.,
NEW YORK, March 3, 1884. }

A special meeting of this association will be held at the Armory on Saturday evening, March 8th, at 8 o'clock, to hear the report of the Committee of the Board of Management, appointed February 20th, to investigate a Statement issued and signed by some of the Colonels of the various regiments, of which Colonel Clark was the first signer, and to transact such other business as may be brought before the meeting.

L. W. WINCHESTER,
Colonel Commanding.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING.

The following is a Summary of Proceedings of the Special Meeting of the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., held in accordance with the order of March 3rd, 1884, and at which, upwards of six hundred members were present.

HENRY L. FREELAND,

Adjutant and *ex officio* Secretary.

Special Meeting of the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., held on March 8th, 1884.

Lieut. Colonel Charles B. Bostwick in the Chair :

"Please give your attention to the report of the committee of the Board of Management."

Colonel Locke W. Winchester, chairman of the Special Committee, then read the following report.

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

The Committee of the Board of Management appointed at the meeting of February 20th last, to investigate the semi-official statements contained in a circular issued and signed by some of the Colonels of various regiments, and of which Colonel Emmons Clark was the first signer, beg leave to submit the following report:

In this printed circular we find the following statement:

"The practical result of the existence of *uniformed* organizations bearing the names and numerical designations of "Regiments of the National Guard has been to induce young "men, who would otherwise continue to perform active "military duty in the National Guard, to take their discharge from the service of the State to join the *uniformed* "veteran battalions."

As to this statement—in order to get at the facts and to obtain data that would be reliable, your committee sent a postal card to each of the uniformed members of the “Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y.,” asking certain questions, and we have received 352 replies.

The following are the questions and summarized replies:

Ques. 1. Were you induced to take your discharge from the Seventh Regiment, to join the uniformed battalion?

To this question *all* have answered in the negative.

Ques. 2. Did you join the regiment with a view of becoming a member of the uniformed battalion?

To this we have three answers in the affirmative.

Ques. 3. Since becoming a member of the Veteran Organization how many recruits have you procured for the Seventh Regiment?

In answer to this question, we learn that 296 recruits have been actually added to the company rolls of the Seventh Regiment by the uniformed members of the Veteran Organization.

Ques. 4. Were you in the U. S. Army or Navy?

In answer to this question we learn that 49 were in either the Army or Navy 1861–65, some of whom had served with the regiment in 1861.

Ques. 5. Where you in the U. S. Service 1861–63 with the Seventh Regiment?

In answer to this question we learn that 185 men were members of the Seventh Regiment 1861–63. Of this number 156 were in the U. S. Service with the Regiment.

The following is a consolidated Summary of the terms of service in the Seventh Regiment of the Uniformed Veterans, viz.:

SUMMARY.

AGE		YEARS OF SERVICE IN SEVENTH REGIMENT, N. G. S. N. Y.		REMARKS
No. of Men.	Years of age.	No. of Men.	Years of Service.	
3	25	8	5	Service with the Seventh Regiment, 1861-63:
22	25 to 30	12	6	
85	30 to 40	145	7	185 men of the 352 uniformed members who have responded to the postal inquiry were in the Seventh Regiment, 1861-1863, of this number 156 volunteered with the Regiment.
140	40 to 50	58	8	
70	50 to 60	107	9 to 15	
25	60 to 70	16	15 to 20	
3	70 to 75	2	21	
3	75 to 80	2	24	Service in the Army or Navy, 1861-1865:
1	81	1	30	
		1	38	
352		352		49 men of the 352 who have responded, enlisted in the Army or Navy, some of whom were with the Seventh Regiment in 1861.
				The 352 men who have responded have procured 296 recruits for the Seventh Regiment
				93 % are over 30 years of age.
				68 % are over 40 years of age.
				94 % have served 7 yrs. and over.
				36 % have served 9 yrs. and over.

It will be seen from the foregoing facts that the semi-official statement made in the circular to which we have referred, to the effect that the practical result of the existence of the Uniformed Veteran Organization has been to induce young men to take their full and honorable discharges from the Seventh Regiment in order to join the Veteran organization, is erroneous, as the Veteran organization has *not* only not depleted the numerical strength of the Regiment but has largely added to it.

The next statement in the circular is in reference to the uniform, and is as follows:

“For this reason the extraordinary efforts to make such “uniformed battalion attractive, by expensive and showy “uniforms, by parades and excursions, and by other festivities, is a positive detriment of the National Guard.”

The committee hardly deem it necessary to allude to this subject. It is well-known both to the older members of the regiment and of the Veteran Organization, that a uniform was adopted in April, 1861, immediately after the organization had received its charter from the Legislature. This uniform was used for several years on important public emergencies, but as it was not found to be entirely appropriate, a more suitable and serviceable uniform was subsequently adopted, distinctive in its character, and which cannot be mistaken for the uniform of the regiment.

The uniform now worn by the members of the Veteran Organization was adopted through the exertions of its lamented Colonel Marshall Lefferts. From the facts presented for your consideration and from those within your knowledge, it is evident that the uniform has undoubtedly served to strengthen and maintain the interest of the older members, and to preserve and continue their recollections of service in the regiment, and at the same time to make the organization more serviceable in any public emergency during which the Commander-in-Chief might need their services.

With reference to the statement in the circular that the uniformed battalion of the Veteran Organization is a standing menace to the strength and welfare of the Regiment, we invite your attention to the facts already presented, which disprove such allegation.

In regard to the imputation that the veteran organization has assumed to use, without authority, numerical designations and military titles, we beg to refer to the opinion* of Messrs. Asa Bird Gardner and Jas. G. Janeway.

There are many statements in the circular to which we believe it is unnecessary to invite your attention, as they carry their own refutation in their context.

* Copy of opinion not furnished in time for this publication.

We learn however, from the circular, with deep regret and surprise, that persons may receive full and honorable discharges from the Seventh Regiment who have only performed *five years* of indifferent service therein.

In conclusion we beg to say that the history of the Veteran Organization has shown, for nearly a quarter of a century, the deep and abiding interest of the members in the welfare, prosperity and reputation of the Seventh Regiment, and we deplore and discourage any action which tends, or may tend, in the least degree, to mar the harmony and affection which has heretofore always existed between the two organizations.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Dated New York, March 8th, 1884.

L. W. WINCHESTER,
Chairman.

JOHN C. GIFFING,
EDWARD G. ARTHUR,
HENRY W. T. MALI,
HENRY H. HOLLY,
H. L. FREELAND,
Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

NEW YORK, March 8th, 1884.

The Committee of the Board of Management appointed February 20th, beg leave to state, that while making the inquiry then directed, they had their attention called to a communication affecting this organization, which appeared in the New York daily papers of February 26th, and also in a circular signed by Colonel Emmons Clark, a member of this organization.

In that communication it is stated :

“ That the usefulness of the Association is greatly impaired,
“ because the men who control it are chiefly interested in fancy
“ uniforms, parades, excursions and other festivities, that conse-
“ quently, the Benevolent Fund of the Association, which should
“ long since have reached a large amount, is now only \$5.000,
“ and very inadequate to the relief of needy members and their
“ families.”

It is well known to the older members of this Veteran Organi-

zation, that the benevolent features in its incorporation have always been only one of the incidental objects.

Your Committee believing that your attention should be invited to this subject, have the honor to submit herewith the report of the Paymaster, showing the present financial condition of the organization, as compared with that of 1875; (about the time when the present uniform was adopted), which conclusively answers so much of the statement, as your Committee deem deserving of such notice.

Respectfully submitted,

L. W. WINCHESTER,

Chairman of Committee.

REPORT OF THE PAYMASTER.

NEW YORK, March 8th, 1884.

COLONEL L. W. WINCHESTER,

Chairman of the Committee of the Board of Management.

DEAR SIR :

In response to the request of your Committee for a statement of the financial condition of "the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y.," I beg leave to hand you herewith the following report :

1875.					
April 19th, General Fund cash balance					
(see 16th Annual Report),	-	-			\$247 81
Investments—11 Shares Bank of					
New York	-		\$1,100		
\$6,000 U. S. 6 per cent. Bonds	-		6,000		
					<u>7,100 00</u>
Total	-	-	-	-	\$7,347 81
1884.					
March 8th, General Fund, cash balance	-	-			\$600 80
Benevolent Fund, cash in N. Y. Life Ins.					
and Trust Co., at 4 per cent.	-	-	-		5,261 00
Reserve Fund, cash in N. Y. Life Ins. and					
Trust Co., at 4 per cent.	-	-	-		5,578 48
Total	-	-	-	-	<u>\$11,440 28</u>
Increase,	-	-	-	-	\$4,092 47
Total disbursements for Charity to date,					\$6,907 73.

That the Reserve Fund of the Organization has never been drawn upon for any purpose whatever, but has increased from year to year since 1875, and the accrued interest invested. .

The Benevolent Fund, as Incorporated in the Charter of April 19th, 1882, comprises the sum of \$5,000, to which has been added, by the contribution of the Uniformed Members on October 31st, 1883, the sum of \$251, and by the contribution of Mr. H. R. Searle, not a member of the Organization, the sum of \$10, making a total of \$5,261.00 The income of this Fund is devoted to charitable purposes only, and no other draft on it can be made. The disbursements for charity entered in above report have been made from the income aforesaid and from the receipts of fees of new members.

That no worthy appeal for assistance from any member of the Organization has ever been refused, and that the charitable work of the Organization has increased four-fold since 1876, and is now at its maximum.

Very respectfully,

EDWARD A. KINGSLAND,

Paymaster.

*I hereby certify that I have examined the above }
report, and that it is true and correct. }*

E. G. ARTHUR,

Chairman Finance Committee,

Veterans of the Seventh Regiment.

The chairman also read the opinion of Messrs. Asa Bird Gardner and James G. Janeway; to the effect that the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., are an independent military organization recognized by the State, and in the present Military Code, and that they have not assumed to use military designations, uniforms or titles of rank contrary to law.

Lieut. Col. Bostwick then resigned the chair to Col. Winchester, who cautioned the members to be temperate in speech, and to avoid personal allusions in debate.

Bvt. Brig. General Charles Roome, late U. S. Vols. said:
Mr. Chairman—I desire to offer the following resolutions :

RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, the Committee of the Board of Management have, at this meeting, rendered their report relative to certain allegations or imputations concerning this Veteran Organization, contained in a recent printed extra official and concerted circular, signed by Colonel Emmons Clark, Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., and by several other commanding officers, and

Whereas, such concerted circular appears to have been issued and published in the daily press and otherwise distributed, with a view, if possible, to bring discredit upon the uniformed members of this organization, and to complain of the use of its chartered title, and also with a view to influence the Legislature of this State on a pending bill, and if possible, impair the efficiency of this Veteran Organization as one which the Commander-in-Chief may confidently call upon in a public emergency, and

Whereas, such concerted circular, in its partial and erroneous statement of facts, and the conclusions therefrom, has a tendency to mar the harmony and affectionate and respectful attachment, which has heretofore, for a quarter of a century, subsisted between the "Veterans of the Seventh Regiment," and the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y. Now, therefore

Resolved—That this organization hereby approves and ratifies the report just rendered, and directs the same to be printed for distribution.

Resolved—That this organization declares its unabated attachment and regard for the regiment, from which its members, after full and honorable service therein, have been chosen, and further expresses its pride in the regiment's character and reputation, and an abiding interest in its welfare and prosperity as an integral part of the National Guard of this State.

Resolved—That this organization will, as always heretofore, continue by every proper means in its power to aid in maintaining the efficiency of the regiment, and to keep its ranks full, and to support it in every public emergency, and on every occasion of ceremony where its services, may, as heretofore, be invoked.

Resolved—That this organization deeply deplores the efforts of any individual member, or of officers of the National Guard, unconnected with this organization or with the regiment, to attempt to disturb the affectionate and respectful relations which have always subsisted between the two, and this organization further deplores and expresses its decided disapproval of any attempt to impair its efficiency or solidarity as an independent veteran military organization, chartered by the State, and

Whereas, the members of this Veteran Organization, when voluntarily enlisting and faithfully serving in the Seventh Regiment, the full term of years required by law, did not, by receiving full and honorable discharge become absolutely discharged from the State forces, but are still liable by law, under their original engagements for duty therein in time of insurrection or invasion, and

Whereas, this Veteran Organization sought, and obtained from the Legislature of this State, in March 1861, when Civil War was imminent, a charter which would render it efficient as an independent military organization for such a contingency, in which charter its veteran character, and the military designations of its officers were distinctly recognized, and

Whereas, this Veteran Organization, in April 1861, at request of the military authorities, uniformed, equipped and drilled a battalion of its honorably discharged members of the regiment, consisting of all for whom arms could be supplied by the State, and performed then such public duty as was required, and again reported for and performed duty in the draft riots of 1863 and railroad riots of 1877, and

Whereas, this Veteran Organization has always considered itself as an independent military organization, recognized by law, and subject, under the Military Code, to the orders of His Excellency the Governor, in case of emergency or necessity, to aid the National Guard in quelling invasion, insurrection, riot or breach of the peace.

Resolved—That this organization, as a conservator of the peace, long recognized by the State, will continue as heretofore, to respond with fidelity and alacrity to the call of duty on a public

emergency, and to maintain the reputation of the Corps for strict and attentive performance thereof, and this organization invites attention to the services it has already performed, and to the character of its members, and the record they have made for themselves by long and honorable service in the Seventh Regiment, as evidences of the respect and confidence to which this organization believes itself entitled and justified in continuing to expect from the constituted authorities and citizens of this State.

Resolved—That the Colonel of this organization, and six members to be appointed by the chair, constitute a committee with full power to take such action to protect and conserve the interests and rights of this organization as they may deem necessary or desirable.

GENERAL CHARLES ROOME:

Mr. Chairman—I would like to say to my friends and associates here just a few words. I will not take much of your time. I was one of the originators of this Association. I was one of the most active among you. I worked hard, and I worked faithfully, and why? Because I was one of the sons of this regiment. Here I attained my military education, and here I devoted myself, my honor, and my services, and I am just as true a member of the Seventh Regiment to-day as any man here or in the active body. (Cheers.)

Sir, a few of us, friends and associates, who marched side by side, touching elbow to elbow, gathered together for the purpose of considering what we could do to keep up the remembrance of each other. I was a young man then, and full of fire as a young cadet, but still the heart that beat in me then, beats as warmly now; and so does that, of that noble and brave old man (Brevet Colonel Shumway), who was obliged just now to leave this room because the heat was too oppressive, although the heat was not too oppressive for him in the time of riots. (Applause.)

Sir, in the paper which I see here there are one or two remarks which I confess have filled me with surprise. They read as follows:

“The uniformed ‘veteran’ battalions should not be allowed to use the names and numerical designations of the National Guard regiments, because the assumption of the name of ‘veteran,’ by the very young men who publicly appear in the uniform of such

“ battalions, is discourteous to the gallant veterans of the last war, “ as well as by those who by long and distinguished service in the “ National Guard, and by mature years, may be fairly entitled to “ that designation.” We had veterans in this regiment before the last war, and I was one of them then.

“ To be eligible to wear the regalia of these uniformed ‘ veteran ’ “ battalions, it is only necessary to perform five years of indifferent “ service in the militia of the State, and at the age of twenty-three “ years young men may, and sometimes do, lay aside the modest “ uniform of the private soldier in the National Guard in exchange “ for the chapeau and sword and uniform of a general officer, and “ parade in public as ‘ veterans.’ ”

Now, gentlemen, in this connection I would draw your attention to one point. I do not know who wrote this paper, but I am astonished that the Colonel of our regiment, whom we have honored so greatly in the past, and would gladly honor in the future, should have signed a paper which pays so poor a compliment to himself, and his associate officers. (Applause.)

I say to the gentlemen here, if inefficient and indifferent service is tolerated in this regiment, now, for five consecutive years, it is a very different regiment from what it was when I was a young man. (Applause.)

Colonel, I sincerely hope that somebody will draw the attention of the Colonel of the Seventh to that article, for I am sure he will say: “ I did not examine that paper carefully.”

This paper also speaks somewhere, I do not know where it is, of the desire of our young veterans (laughter) to put on uniform and parade in fuss and feathers. Look at the list of names down there. Do the distinguished officers of these regiments want to monopolize all the fuss and feathers and leave us nothing but work? What possible cause have they for envy? Our veteran uniform is simply a reminder of long and faithful service rendered when we wore the same uniform which they now wear; what has this organization ever done that would cause any one connected with the active regiment to offer us such stuff as this? Is not this regiment dear to us all? Have we not served in it? Are not our children marching in it now side by side? I had four brothers in my company, and one brother-in-law, and after I put on the uniform of a veteran of

this regiment I brought my son and two of my sister's children in to join its ranks. Is that the way to deplete the regiment? No! If I had fifty children I would gladly bring them all in. My mother had twenty children, fourteen of whom were boys five of them belonged to this regiment. (Applause.)

Colonel and Gentlemen, it is now many years since a few of us gathered to form the Veteran Association, of what was then the "National Guard," for there was, at that time, but one regiment called by that name. My associates were veterans of this present regiment, and their names are mentioned in the earliest records of this Association, together with my own : Col. Linus W. Stevens, whose heart and soul were in it ; Col. Morgan L. Smith, who was all soldier, all fire, and all veteran ; Col. Catlin, who first called us together to start this organization ; and others whose names are there recorded. These men formed this organization for the express purpose of strengthening the regiment and sustaining its reputation and who questions the efforts of their successors to carry out these noble objects ?

I was but nineteen years of age—no, between eighteen and nineteen—when I joined, and now I am nearly seventy-two; and although I may be marching with feeble, tottering steps to the grave, I will hold up the flag of my regiment to the very last, invoking curses on the heads of those who seek to lower or dishonor it. (Uproarious applause.)

But let there be no anger or unkind feeling. A soldier should be magnanimous. If these gentlemen officers of other battalions have come into our paradise and corrupted any one connected with us, throw over them the broad mantle of charity. Let us act in love. Let us do all we can to bring about a happy termination of the present difficulty, or of any unkind feeling that may exist. Let us act like soldiers, like gentlemen, and like men.

Strive for the prosperity of this regiment that we so dearly love. Let us maintain our name as an example to those who will come after us. Let them see how we act under provocation, and that under insult we will still uphold the honor of our organization. Go forth ; preach nothing but love and kindness. Pour oil on the troubled waters. Let us show an example to our children and children's children, that whatever we may be to an open and avowed foe, we

have nothing but affection for those that are connected with us. Though for a moment they may be misguided, may God forgive them. Let us do the same; but keep your powder dry. (Great applause.)

HON. WILLIAM A. DARLING:

Mr. Chairman—I rise to second these resolutions. Although I am not a uniformed member of this organization, I regard the question that has brought this great assemblage here to-night as one that reaches further than the uniform that is worn, and one that affects the status of every member of the Veteran organization.

I feel, Mr. Chairman, that I have a right to stand here and defend this organization from all assaults from whatever source they may come. Can it be possible that the famous and magnificent regiment to which we have belonged, and for which we have so much love and admiration, has excited the hatred and jealousy of other organizations, and that they have conspired together to inveigle the worthy Colonel of the Seventh Regiment into a conspiracy to enter our ranks and cause discord and dissension between members of the Seventh Regiment and the Seventh Regiment Veterans? Upon no other hypothesis can I reconcile such a proceeding as this.

Now, gentlemen, whatever we may decide to do, whatever action we may in our assembled wisdom think wise and best, of all things, and above all things, let us do nothing that shall impair the efficiency of that grand old regiment to which we have belonged, or that shall create the slightest unkind feeling in that regiment toward us; but let us show them that they have made a mistake through the authorized voice of their regiment, and let us bring to their attention, to their intelligence, to their friendship, and to their attachment, the duty that belongs to them to rectify and correct the wrong that has been done this veteran organization. (Cheers).

I have belonged to the regiment ever since it had its name as the Seventh Regiment, and when it was the Twenty-seventh Regiment. I joined nearly fifty years ago. I served my time and five years beyond, and during the twelve years that I was in the active regiment I never missed a drill or a parade, but once, in the whole of that time. (Applause).

Sir, I have been honored by the regiment ; I have been one of its Officers ; I have been honored as Secretary of the Board of Officers, and I served under that venerable man, that noble soldier, Captain (Bvt.-Colonel) Shumway, who is with us to-night, brought out by the great and momentous question that stirs the heart of every member of this organization. Who can begin to estimate the value of the services this faithful old soldier has rendered to the Seventh Regiment ? To his services, in my judgment, to his military knowledge, to his military devotion to the regiment, we owe more than to any other man, the prestige, the *esprit de corps*, and the discipline that marks that regiment now as the first of its kind in this country. (Uproarious applause.)

I followed him next in rank, and I had no higher ambition than to occupy the place filled by him ; but his services were so valuable to the regiment that they held him there, and he clung to it until age and infirmity made it necessary for him to abandon active service and join himself with us, as the proper place for him to remain in identification with the active regiment. And has it come to this ? Has it come to pass that men like him, who have grown gray in the service, who have rendered such valuable services to the regiment, are to be now set aside, humiliated, and disgraced ? I trust not, Mr. Chairman. In my opinion, when any one member of this organization is assailed, the whole body is assailed. We all know that no man can enter this organization unless he is entitled to receive a proper discharge from the regiment, and is fit to take his seat side by side with the best of the land ; and there is a paragraph in the circular which I think is an unwarranted reflection on this organization, and I am sure whoever penned it could not have estimated the character of the reflections contained in it. I refer to the part in the second section, which says :

“ Those who are charged by law with the maintenance of the
 “ good name of any regiment should not be held responsible for the
 “ conduct of those over whom they have no control ; but so long as
 “ any uniformed battalion bears the name of a National Guard reg-
 “ iment, such regiment will be held responsible by the public for
 “ any want of discipline in such uniformed battalion, and for the un-
 “ soldierly and ungentlemanly conduct of any of its members while in
 “ uniform.” (Laughter.)

Can it be possible, Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, that there is any man in this organization, in uniform or out of it, who would conduct himself in an unsoldierly and ungentlemanly manner that would bring disgrace upon the regiment from which he sprung? (Cries of "No—no.")

Now, Mr. Chairman, while it is proper that we should allude to these things, it should be done in a spirit of manliness and of fair dealing, not in a spirit of revenge or hatred, but simply to show to the intelligence of this community, as well as to the regiment itself, that whoever prepared that circular could not have been cognizant of its far-reaching effect, and of the aspersions and reflections that are contained in its phraseology. It certainly, gentlemen, could not have emanated from a member of the Seventh Regiment—(Cries of "Good.")

And, Mr. Chairman, the Seventh Regiment has always been proverbial for its respect and maintenance of law and order. If we are violating the law, we will submit and abide the consequences, even if it deprives us of our very attractive uniform—an important element in preserving the prestige of the Seventh Regiment itself.

We know very well, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, the fact that there is a uniformed body in the organization of our Veterans which has contributed in a very large degree to the growth and prosperity of the Seventh Regiment.

We know that young men can come into the active regiment, and be part of it, and receive a share of the applause that the regiment is always entitled to by its conduct and discipline; and by serving the State the required time, they can join this organization and will preserve their identity and association with the regiment, and if they desire, they can still have the opportunity to parade in a uniform which is distinctive in itself, but which is known and characterized as the uniform of the Seventh Regiment Veteran Organization. We know how important this Veteran organization has been to the public. We know how important it was during the time of the war. You know very well, gentlemen, for I see a great many of my old associates around me, that when I buckled the cartridge-box upon my son, a member of the Seventh Regiment, and asked him if every cartridge had a bullet in it, and when I helped to put on his knapsack, and started him from the old armory down

to the Potomac, I said, "You go, and I will stay here and take your place." The Veterans and exempt members organized a regiment of nearly four hundred men. I had the honor to command the eighth company, and we drilled regularly—of course we were not familiar with the new drill, for the tactics had been changed from Scott to Upton, yet we went through the double quick and we took all the muskets that could be given to us, and, when the Seventh Regiment returned, covered with *éclat* and glory, we marched our Veterans of five hundred strong down Broadway to meet the boys when they came back, and I say to-day, and I say this hour to-night, and without fear of contradiction, that if the Governor of the State of New York, or the Mayor of the City of New York desired the services of the Veteran Organization of the Seventh Regiment, there is not a man but who would respond to the call. (Tremendous applause.) Such is the pride of the organization. Such is the value of the organization, without a peer in the land; without an organization like it, composed of a body of men who know their duty, and are not afraid to perform it. (Cheers.)

MR. JACKSON S. SCHULTZ:

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Members—I regard it as a very fortunate circumstance that so much time has intervened between the issuing of the address on behalf of the Colonel, and the present time, because we come up to the consideration of the subject calmly to-night. If we had been called earlier we might have expressed some excited feelings. We might have shown some emotion, but now we are all love and kindness. But before we disband this organization (laughter), and before we send our uniforms down to Chatham street in this city, I propose to review for a few short moments some of the considerations which I think ought to weigh in our minds, and that of the public. I remember very well when our regiment moved down to the front, and I remember the riot which succeeded their going away, and I remember with what uniform alacrity the exempt corps, or the exempt members of the regiment, as they were called, came to the armory to defend it. They had not very many muskets, not one serviceable; but they did not close the windows; they did not barricade the doors; they threw them all open, and exposed themselves with such arms as they could find, and told the mob to

come on. That was the conduct of the Seventh Regiment Veterans on that occasion, and those who were there will recall that that was the best policy we thought we could adopt. We saw the mob surging by, but they did not disturb the armory. Now, what followed? That is of more importance. The regiment had gone to the front; they had left a large number of sick members behind; some were so engaged that they could not go; they were gathered together in the armory; they made drill masters, and we commenced recruiting for the regiment; but I cannot now recall the number; but it was one or two hundred that were enlisted by the approbation of the various companies, and these gentlemen were being drilled while their uniforms were being made up in the armory. Finally we heard that the regiment was in trouble; we did not know how they were situated for food and so forth; we went to work, and in sending down recruits sent them down a steamer load of provisions, which was an act that we thought very serviceable. During that whole period there were not less than two or three hundred members of the veterans, all of the exempt corps, occupying that drill-room and doing service, and, as I thought, with the entire approbation of the active regiment at the front. I have been vain enough and foolish enough all these years to think that we were doing a valuable thing, something that was appreciated, especially by the regiment, and never in all my life have I heard a suggestion from any gentleman who signed that pronunciamiento that we were not doing a good thing. I was associated with the committee that built this armory. I believe I was chairman of it. (Applause.) I remember that they took good care to put an equal number of veterans on the committee. This armory was built. We associated with them on equal terms. There never was a suggestion that we were not serviceable, and not wanted.

Now I want to call your attention to a fact which I have spoken of once before, and I regard it as the most important element in the whole case. I say that the State of New York and the United States can not afford to dispense with any military force which is volunteer, and which is inexpensive. It is possible that we may have war in the future with some foreign government. It is possible that we may be called upon to organize and drill three or four hundred thousand men within a very short time, say within a few

weeks. Under such circumstances I venture to think there is not a gray hair here to-night that would not be serviceable. I remember, sir, in 1859, I happened to be in England when the volunteer service was just coming into vogue. They had some trouble with France, and were therefore getting into arms. They had plenty of arms but had no drill officers. A friend of mine in mercantile life introduced me to a gentleman representing one of the regiments, and he confessed *that* to be the difficulty. They did not want to go to the regular service for drill officers, and they were educating themselves, and it was with great difficulty that they could get officers; and I venture to say that if one, two, or three hundred drill officers are wanted they can be found right here. I say again the State of New York won't pass that bill, and the Governor won't sign it. (Cheers.)

We can better afford to do without them, than they can afford to do without us. Those men at Albany and at Washington have too much sense to dispense with any service which is as effective as you have here to-night, and which has been tendered to them through all these years. There have been some allusions to the signers of that document. I know, that is to say, I believe, that Colonel Clark could not have had anything to do with it, and I will tell you why. When those gentlemen presented that address to him, he should have looked it over, and he should have said, "That does not apply to my veterans, it may to yours; I do not know them; they are young men, mine are not; look at them." That is addressed to boys: we are not boys. It goes on to speak of them in various relations which are not true, and the Colonel would recognize that at once, and say, "I would be very happy to sign it; but as it does not apply to my veterans, of course I cannot sign it." He signed it without reading it. (Cheers, laughter, and applause.) I do not say it is so, but I say I believe it is so, because I have known Colonel Clark for twenty or thirty years. He has always been a consistent and logical man, and he certainly could not be either of those, if he signed that document. (Laughter.)

I notice by the *World* newspaper, in an interview that was had, that we are told that the difficulty about this Veteran Corps, and especially speaking of us, is that we "elected officers who have plenty of money and put up good." That is not true. We all

know it. I do not think that General Shaler meant that, and I do not propose to hold him responsible for all that that interviewer said; but he did not talk as good sense and as truthfully as he talks with me. The trouble is, those parties have got themselves into a difficulty, and it is our bounden duty to help them out. (Applause.)

Now let us be a little serious. The Colonel of our regiment has signed that document, under what circumstances I do not know. I do not believe, as I said before, under favorable circumstance; but we have got to live with them, and they have got to live with us, and we won't let them go away from us, and we will hug them still; but it is an unfortunate circumstance. We cannot, of course, associate with them, if the rank and file of the regiment sympathize with that address. If they should do it—I do not think they will; I am told the Board of Officers do, or, rather, a majority of them; it is unfortunate—our relations would not be so cordial as in the past; but I do not want the rank and file to hold any public meeting, get up any excitement, or pass any resolutions, and take sides with the veterans or against the officers; and whenever I see that going on I shall advise against it. The rank and file may possibly stand by their officers. It is a military thing; it has nothing to do with the regiment. The officers have made a mistake, one which they will regret all their lives; but let us not make a mistake by getting the men, the rank and file, into a difficulty with their officers. (Applause.)

When I meet a member of the regiment who wants to talk about this I will say: "Do not talk to me on that subject; I will talk to your officers." Whenever we get the companies agitated about a matter of this kind they may go wrong and lead to dispute. When the time comes, if it becomes necessary to lay off our uniforms, although, unfortunately, I have a new one, I will lay it aside—I will send it down to Chatham street, and have it sold; but don't do anything that will injure the Seventh Regiment. (Cheers.)

MR. JOHN H. GARDNER:

Mr. Chairman—I have been connected and associated with this regiment for over fifty years. In it I had two brothers, a brother-in-law, a son, and three nephews, and I assure you, gentlemen, that this outrageous insult that is now put upon the

Veteran Corps by Colonel Clark grieves me to the soul. That passage that was read here by our friend a few moments ago with regard to the conduct of men in uniform, if it means anything, means that this Veteran Corps have been guilty of ungentelemanly and unsoldierly conduct in uniform, so as to bring disgrace upon the Seventh Regiment of this State. That is as plain as it can possibly be, or else it means nothing at all. Who is Colonel Clark that he should insult a respectable body of men like this? Is it the same man that owes to you and other members of this regiment the very rank he holds in this regiment—does he not hold it by some of your votes? Is it he that should insult us in this way? Are there not in the ranks of this Veteran Corps men who are far superior to him; whose standing in society, socially, intellectually, and in every other form, far his superior? (Voices of disapproval, and a request from the Chair not to be personal.)

I am told not to be personal. Is it possible to look at this manifesto issued by Colonel Clark, and not have a personal feeling toward him with regard to it? Are there any here that feel less than I do on the subject? I have read Major Gardner's communication, in which he says that the signing of Colonel to that paper is *ex-official*, and therefore the title of Colonel has no significance, leaving him simply Emmons Clark as the man who issues that document, and I will talk about him.

There is no better authority in the United States than Major Gardner on this subject. I do not wish to say anything that will excite the members of the Veteran Corps, but I feel this insult deeply; and, as I said before, there are many members of this corps who are more than his equal in any position in life that you may place them. Those of you who were on Broadway upon that memorable day when the regiment marched down for the defense of Washington, and saw a piece of canvas stretched across Broadway on which was written "New York sends her jewels," had you looked in the faces of those men as they marched down, you would have seen in their countenances a determination to do or die for their country; and if you look now on the faces before you, you will find, if you scan, them closely, very many of those same faces that you saw in the ranks that day. There may be a sprinkling of gray hair, but they are the same faces, and are as ready to go to-day to the defense of their

country as they were on that memorable day. New York never saw such a day as that, such excitement as there was, and God grant we shall never see it again. Many and many a pillow was wet that night by the tears of mother, wife, and sister, and yet this gentleman whose name I am not permitted to use, dares to issue a manifesto and say that these gentlemen have been guilty of conduct unbecoming a soldier and unbecoming a gentleman while in uniform. While I say this with regard to them, I will say a few words with regard to the active regiment. The active regiment is composed of some of the best young men in the City of New York, from the best families, and many, very many of these are the sons, grandsons, and nephews of members of this corps. Sir, they are an honor to the corps to which they belong, but they did not make the Seventh Regiment what it is. It was the members of this Veteran Corps that did that. These young men are sustaining it, and no doubt they will continue to do so; but, sir, they did not make it what it is. It was you and others here who have made its reputation. Fifty years ago, when I was a member of the regiment, the active regiment, the Twenty-seventh Regiment of that day, was the pride of the City and State of New York, and it has retained its reputation ever since.

With this feeling with regard to the insult that has been put upon us I would not have members of the Veteran Corps turn their backs on this regiment. I say "No! stick to it with your might! Stick to the old flag!" The rash man who has made this charge will in a short time have passed away and will be thought of no more, while the old flag will float to the wind for years and years to come, and I trust by our continued help. (Cheers.)

Mr. Bloomfield Brower offered the following as an additional resolution :

MR. BROWER'S AMENDMENT.

That, if considered advisable by a majority of the Board of Management, we authorize them to forward to the Governor of this State, a copy of the Circular issued by Generals and Colonels of the First and Second Division N. G. S. N. Y., together with such statement as may be made, asking for official action.

After a short discussion, Mr. Brower temporarily withdrew the

resolution, which he subsequently presented, and it was referred to the committee appointed under the resolution of General Roome.

MR. BLOOMFIELD BROWER :

Mr. Chairman—I came here to-night as a member of the Veteran Association and to repel any of these attacks that have been made upon us. I regard this circular as an attack on the whole Association, not upon the Uniformed Corps alone. (Applause.)

I have known Colonel Clark for over twenty-five years. I was brought up in the same company, and he periodically puts his foot into it, and this is one of the times.

If the Colonel wants to attack this Association, let him come in here and do it. He had abundant opportunity two years ago, when I offered an amendment to the by-laws. Why should we handle him with gloves? He is not the regiment; that is the mistake. He is not the regiment.

Now on that night he had a chance to, but did not even second my amendment. It received my vote only when I knew there were twenty men at least present who were in favor of it, but they had not the moral courage. I have not changed front. I think the tail has been wagging the dog too long, and that is the trouble with the Uniformed Association. But we can settle it right here inside of the Association. We need not go to the papers. We need not be ungentlemanly, or unofficerlike, as Colonel Clark and his associates in that circular have been. If we could try him to-day without prejudice—and we are not fitted for it as we stand—I would draw charges against him and every member of the Veteran Association who signed that circular. We have our remedy: to go to Albany to the Governor. He, Colonel Clark, has been guilty of unofficerlike conduct in putting that circular before the public as he has done. The Governor is the one who should judge this thing. He is their superior. It is extra official—or whatever you may call it. They had no right to issue such a document. There is where it should go, and that is the reason I offered that amendment.

Commissary Edward Kemp offered the following as a substitute for the preamble and resolution presented by General Roome :

Whereas, The Division, Brigade, and Regimental Commanders of the First and Second Divisions, N. G. S. N. Y., have deemed it expedient to sign and issue a Circular condemning the practice adopted by "Uniformed Battalions of Veterans of the National Guard," of "wearing uniforms and designations of grade similar to those in use by the National Guard issued under the provisions of the Military Code";

And whereas, We, "The Veterans of the Seventh Regiment," believe that it never was the intent of "the Uniformed Battalion of the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y.," to do or suffer to be done anything detrimental to the Seventh Regiment, or in violation of law.

And whereas, It is evident that serious differences of opinion exist as to certain questions, which in the interests of harmony should be settled and forever put at rest by the highest authority of the State ;

Therefore, be it resolved, That a Committee of fifteen members of this Association be appointed to ascertain and report—

1. Whether any proceedings have ever been taken or sanctioned by this Association exceeding or violating its chartered privileges or powers.

2. Whether the uniform and designation of grade adopted by "The Uniformed Battalion of the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y.," are within the meaning of Sections 59 of the Military Code of the State of New York "similar to those in use by the National Guard issued under the provisions of the Military Code."

3. Whether the said "Uniformed Battalion" is a lawfully constituted organization.

And be it further resolved, That, as to the several questions already suggested, or which in the course of investigation may arise, the said Committee be authorized and empowered to request and obtain the opinions of the Attorney-General and Adjutant-General of the State of New York.

Colonel JOHN FOWLER, Jr., spoke as follows :

Mr. Chairman.—The right of the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment to wear uniforms and designations of grade similar to those in use by the National Guard has been challenged.

A protest has been issued by a large number of gentlemen, so respectable in personal character, and so high in military rank, that we cannot afford to ignore them. A paper signed by the Division, Brigade, and Regimental Commanders of the First and Second Divisions, deserves and should meet our respectful attention, especially when that paper openly denies a right that several hundred members of our Association have assumed, in good faith, no doubt, to exercise.

It seems to me that the report of the committee fails to touch the main question we have been convened to consider, namely, the right to wear uniforms and designations of grade.

(Cries of "Oh! oh!" "Sit down, Colonel, you're on the wrong side.")

I am here by no man's courtesy. I am here because I am a Veteran of the Seventh Regiment!

(Applause, and cries of "Go on," mingled with cries of "Out of order.")

The association known as the "Veterans of the National Guard" was chartered by the Legislature in 1861 as a benevolent corporation. Its name was subsequently changed to the "Veterans of the Seventh Regiment." The charter makes no reference to military purposes. It contains nothing whatever to warrant the formation of even a quasi-military body.

All arguments that have thus far been put forth in support of the right to maintain a uniformed battalion, proceed upon the mistaken idea that the Charter creates a military corporation.

Upon this assumption, it is further urged that our Association being within the spirit, if not within the letter of the Charter, a "Military Organization," as defined by Section 75 of the Military Code, is exempt from the penalties prescribed by Section 59 of the Code.

I desire to discuss the questions thus raised, and if I cannot win your applause, I hope, at least, to receive your kind attention. (Cries of "Out of order.")

Let us approach the subject calmly, and reason together with moderation. The legal right of the Veterans to wear uniforms and designations of grade similar to those in use by the National Guard, is a question that has been raised. It is squarely before us to-night; it is a question that sooner or later must be met, and we may as well meet it now. The question is one, not of sentiment, to be argued with warmth; but a cold-blooded question of corporation law. The technicalities of military law have nothing to do with the subject.

A corporation being a mere creature of the statute can exercise no other powers than those which the statute creating it confers. Now let us see what are the objects to promote which our Charter was granted. Those objects are distinctly enumerated; they all point to the purposes of benevolence, and to nothing else. There is nothing whatever in the original Charter, nor in any amendment thereof, that indicates in the slightest degree a legislative intent to constitute "The Veterans of the Seventh Regiment" a military organization. This proposition being once established, it will not be difficult to show that the members of the Uniformed Battalion are at this moment subject to the penalties prescribed by Section 59 of the Military Code. (Cries of "Order! Order! Out of order.")

[The chairman here called Col. Fowler to order on the ground that the opinion of Colonel Gardner and Mr. Janeway, in support of the right claimed by the Uniformed Battalion, was not before the Association for discussion.] Col. Fowler then said:

So far as the feelings of this assemblage are concerned, I certainly *appear* to be, as some gentlemen have already said, "on the wrong side." I do not think I am "on the wrong side"; but I shall pursue my line of argument no further. You do not wish to hear me.

Allow me to say, however, that come what will, there must be no break in the chain of that warm friendship which for so many years has bound the regiment and its veterans together. (Loud applause.)

The two organizations animated, as I sincerely hope they will be in the future, as they have been in the past, by a common purpose, should continue to move forward on parallel lines toward a common object: the regiment seeking by all honorable means to maintain the splendid reputation it has labored so many years to achieve, and we, the Veterans, striving in all lawful ways to increase the usefulness, to

promote the prosperity, and to advance the fame of the regiment.
(Loud applause.)

A vote was then taken on Commissary Edward Kemp's substitute and it was declared lost, having received but few affirmative votes.

The question was then put upon the preamble and resolutions offered by Gen. Roome, and they were adopted without a dissenting voice.

Captain Edward G. Arthur then read the Supplementary Report of the Committee of the Board of Management hereinbefore printed (p. 24).

CAPTAIN JOHN C. GIFFING said:

In the course of the duties devolving upon the Committee, some letters and official communications, came to their notice which should be read this evening, that members may be informed of the position that we occupy in the premises.

The Secretary then read the following letters:

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGIMENT, }
NATIONAL GUARD, S. N. Y., }
NEW YORK, May 6th, 1876. }

GEN. MARSHALL LEFFERTS,

Commanding Veterans of National Guard:

GENERAL—This regiment has decided to encamp at Philadelphia in July next, and will leave New York on Saturday, the first day of that month, for that purpose; understanding that the Veteran Association will visit Philadelphia on Monday, July 3d, I beg leave to tender the services of this regiment as an escort to your command on its arrival in Philadelphia, and to assure you that it will afford great pleasure to the officers and members of this regiment to meet their comrades as proposed. Hoping that it will be convenient and agreeable to you to honor this regiment by accepting it as your escort,

I remain, with great respect,

Yours truly,

EMMONS CLARK,

Col. Commanding Seventh Regiment N. G. S. N. Y.

NEW YORK, May 22, 1876.

COL. EMMONS CLARK,

Commanding Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y.:

MY DEAR COLONEL—It is with more than ordinary pleasure that I acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 6th instant, offering an escort to the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, upon their arrival in Philadelphia on the 3d July.

A courtesy like this comes with pleasant grace from the active men of the regiment, to those who have graduated honorably from its ranks, (many of them fathers of those doing active duty,) and those gray with years, who still look with pride and solicitude upon the "tramp of the boys," in whose keeping now lies the future of the corps.

I will at an early day acquaint you with the proposed movement of the Veterans as to time of departure from the city, etc., etc., and am,

My dear Colonel,

Yours truly,

MARSHALL LEFFERTS,

Colonel Commanding Veterans Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGIMENT, }
 NATIONAL GUARD, S. N. Y., }
 NEW YORK, June 15, 1876. }

MY DEAR SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of 13th instant, and desire to express the pleasure which it will afford the officers and members of this regiment, to be informed that the Veterans have been assigned a place in line in immediate connection with this regiment, at the 4th of July parade in Philadelphia.

Hoping that the excursion will bring pleasure and honor to both organizations, and will cement the bonds of union and friendship which must ever exist between them,

I remain, with great respect,

Yours truly,

EMMONS CLARK,

To C. B. BOSTWICK,
Adjutant, V. N. G.

*Colonel Commanding Seventh Regiment,
 N. G. S. N. Y.*

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGIMENT,
NATIONAL GUARD, S. N. Y.,
NEW YORK, July 24, 1877. 6 P.M. }

MY DEAR GENERAL—Yours this date is received, and I take the earliest opportunity to reply. We do not think that the Regiment will be ordered to leave New York City, for obvious reasons. But in case it should, we would be most happy to place our armory in charge of the Veterans, and know that it would in that case be amply and ably protected. Or in case the Regiment should be called for active duty in any part of the city, we should be glad to leave the armory in charge of the Veterans, as you suggest. In case the assistance of the Veterans should be needed as above, or in any other particular, I will hasten to communicate with Colonel Pond or yourself, or both. I have not heard from Colonel Pond on account of his absence from the City.

With great respect,

Yours truly,

GEN. J. H. LIEBENAU,
Lieut.-Col. Veteran Corps.

EMMONS CLARK,
Commanding Seventh Regiment.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGIMENT,
NATIONAL GUARD, S. N. Y.,
NEW YORK, July 25, 1877. }

GENERAL—As it is possible that this Regiment may be on active duty to-night, I think it would be well to have as many of the Veterans at the armory at 8 P.M. as possible. Should you agree with me, I think they should be *privately* notified, and that no publicity should be given to the matter in the papers or by any bulletin. If they will come to the armory in citizen's dress, with fatigue cap in pocket, to be worn as a badge of distinction in armory, no publicity will be possible. Everything to avoid exciting the public mind is at present advisable.

Yours truly,

EMMONS CLARK.

TO GEN. LIEBENAU.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGIMENT, }
 NATIONAL GUARD S. N. Y., }
 NEW YORK, Aug. 10, 1877. }

COLONEL—I desire to express to you the thanks of the officers and members of this regiment for the prompt tender of aid and assistance from the Veteran Association on the 24th day of July, and especially to acknowledge the welcome presence of many officers and members of your organization at the armory during the evening of Wednesday, July 25th, at which time it was expected that the regiment would be ordered from the armory to protect the public peace.

It is a source of pleasure, pride, and confidence to the officers and members of the regiment to know that on all occasions there is a large and well-organized corps of veteran members ready and willing to give their active and effective support if required.

The following is an extract from my official report to Brigade Headquarters, dated August 6, 1877:

“The commandant also gratefully notices the offer of assistance from the Veteran Association of his Regiment. On Wednesday evening a large number of the Veteran Corps under Lieut.-Colonel J. H. Liebenau, reported at the armory to guard the premises in case the regiment was called to any other section of the city, and to perform any other service that might be required.”

With great respect,

Yours truly,

EMMONS CLARK,

Col. Commanding Seventh Regt., N. G. S. N. Y.

To COLONEL W. A. POND,

Commanding Veterans National Guard.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGIMENT, }
 NATIONAL GUARD, S. N. Y., }
 NEW YORK, Feb. 9, 1880. }

I write to invite the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment to parade as a part of the escort on the day of removal from the old armory to the new. The Sixty-ninth and Seventy-first Regiments have already tendered their services as escort to the Regiment. It

may be that other Regiments will also desire to manifest in the same way their kindly interest in the fortunes of our corps. But whatever the number of organizations may contribute to the magnitude of the parade, the Veterans of the Seventh will have a place in the column which you may consider most desirable, appropriate, and honorable.

Hoping that you, and those you represent, will find it convenient and agreeable to parade with the Regiment in April next, on the occasion above referred to, I remain,

With great respect,

Yours truly,

EMMONS CLARK,

Col. Commanding Seventh Regiment.

TO COLONEL W. A. POND,

Commanding Veterans Seventh Regiment.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGIMENT, }
 NATIONAL GUARD, S. N. Y., }
 NEW YORK, May 8, 1880. }

MY DEAR COLONEL—I hand you herewith your letter referred to me by Rader, with indorsement. I am sure you will greatly oblige Major Smith and the members of Board of Officers Committee if you make Edward Kemp Chairman of the Veteran Committee and support him with such live men as Winchester, Montanye, John Kemp, Edward G. Arthur, James Ray, 10th Co., etc., etc. The Fair taught us who were *working and business* men, and who are sure to make anything successful that they are interested in.

Very truly, your friend,

EMMONS CLARK.

COLONEL POND.

MAY 8th, 1880.

MY DEAR COLONEL—It was *not* expected that the Committee would necessarily consist of one Field, one Staff, and one Officer from each company. Simply that the number of committee of Veteran Officers should be twelve; same number as Board of Officers Com-

mittee. It would probably make plainer sailing if Major Smith is the only field officer on the committee, except yourself and myself *ex-officio*. I think that it will be well to have an Auxiliary Committee of five from each Veteran company, and that probably was the intention of the writer of the resolution.

Yours truly,

EMMONS CLARK.

COLONEL POND.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGIMENT, }
 NATIONAL GUARD, S. N. Y., }
 NEW YORK, June 17, 1881. }

COLONEL E. M. CRAWFORD,

Commanding Veterans Seventh Regiment:

DEAR COLONEL—I consent to the Band wearing the uniform belonging to the Regiment on the 23d inst., and to the use of one of the squad drill-rooms by the Adjutant of the Veterans for the instruction of non-commissioned staff and sergeants. Mr. Wernig, band-master, and Mr. Edwards, superintendent, will attend to this upon presentation of this communication.

Yours hastily,

EMMONS CLARK,

Col. Seventh Regiment.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGIMENT, }
 NATIONAL GUARD, S. N. Y., }
 NEW YORK, Oct. 15, 1881. }

COLONEL E. M. CRAWFORD,

Commanding Veterans Seventh Regiment:

COLONEL—I have the honor to invite the field and staff of the Veterans Seventh Regiment to meet Governor Long, of Massachusetts, and the Officers of the First Corps of Cadets, at the Board of Officers' Room, Armory, on Friday, October 21st, at 5 o'clock P.M.

Very respectfully,

EMMONS CLARK,

Colonel Commanding.

NEW YORK, Oct. 19, 1881.

DEAR COLONEL—General Shaler and Staff will come on Friday *in uniform*. I thought you would like to know this, as it may influence the action of Veteran Field and Staff.

Yours truly,
EMMONS CLARK.

COLONEL CRAWFORD.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGIMENT, }
NATIONAL GUARD, S. N. Y., }
NEW YORK, Oct. 14, 1882. }

COLONEL E. M. CRAWFORD:

DEAR COLONEL—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours 13th instant, and take great pleasure in granting permission (as requested) to use the large drill-room at armory for assembling and forming of Veterans of Seventh Regiment, Thursday P.M., 19th instant.

With great respect,
Yours truly,
EMMONS CLARK,
Commanding Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGIMENT, }
NATIONAL GUARD, S. N. Y., }
NEW YORK, June 10, 1883. }

DEAR COLONEL—I am in receipt of invitation to be present at a Clam Bake at Rocky Point on 18th inst., and would be very happy to meet the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment on that pleasant occasion, but, my engagements are of a character so exacting that it will be impossible for me to accept your polite invitation, which I greatly regret.

Hoping that all who participate in the proposed festivities will fully realize the pleasure anticipated, I am, with great regard,

Yours truly,
EMMONS CLARK,

COL. L. W. WINCHESTER,
Veterans Seventh Regiment,
New York City.

Colonel.

Upon the conclusion of the reading by the Adjutant of these communications,

BVT.-MAJOR GEORGE P. EDGAR said :

Mr. Chairman—I want to say to this Association of which Colonel Clark is a member, and once served as a Major, that in the last few days we were quite agitated, and are now getting over it. Colonel Clark, in his circular— and we call it that—says kind words to the war veterans, and hopes that the Uniformed Battalion of our Association will not longer exist, because it adds insult continually to those who earned honors in the field. That is very pretty. Colonel Clark uttered those sentiments personally in my hearing, and he has put them on record. I wish simply to say that Colonel Clark, as Colonel of the Seventh Regiment, has not, to my knowledge, ever invited any of the veterans who earned those honors, to parade at any time with the Seventh Regiment. Never once since 1865, when most of us came home. There was, one time in the Academy of Music, quite a compliment given to the young men who went to the front. I will say this—that the present Colonel of the Veterans did honor the war veterans in this Association by inviting them to parade with his Staff on Centennial Evacuation Day. I deem it but fair that the record should be made; there is one item that the gentlemen of the Board of Managers have overlooked; they have not all the record; Colonel Clark, on November 11th, 1878, in an appeal to the people of New York, said several very kind things when he asked them for \$100,000 more to finish this armory. He then said, “Subscriptions may be forwarded to either of the Trustees of the Fund, Royal Phelps, J. Lenox Kennedy, W. Astor, R. M. Weed, or John J. McLaren, Paymaster of the Veterans, 17 William Street.”

Mr. WILLIAM H. FARNUM :

Mr. Chairman—I have not heard a single word said in praise of Colonel Clark. I propose, if no one else will do it, to add my mite of praise to-night. I admit, in this manifesto, and for the purposes of this argument, that there are some phrases——

Mr. BROWER: I call the gentleman to order.

The CHAIR decided the point of order well taken.

Capt. GIFFING: I move that the privilege of the floor be accorded Mr. Farnum.

Seconded and adopted with but few dissenting voices.

Mr. FARNUM: I prefer to have it go on record, that the only gentleman who stood up here to speak for Colonel Clark was cut off.

The Chair then appointed the following Committee under the resolutions of Bvt. Brig.-Gen. Roome, viz.:

Bvt. Brig.-Gen. Charles Roome.

Honorable William A. Darling.

Mr. Jackson S. Schultz.

Colonel William A. Pond.

Mr. William H. Montanye.

Quartermaster Henry H. Holly.

Mr. WILLIAM R. MACDIARMID:

Mr. Chairman—As the gentleman declines to proceed with his remarks, and as we have made out our case, and the other side has put forward no argument to sustain themselves, I move that we do now adjourn.

The motion was put and declared carried.

The following communication from Judge Advocate Asa Bird Gardner, LL.D., U. S. Army, of the Division of the Atlantic, contains interesting facts concerning the "Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y.," as an independent military organization, which it is believed will be appreciated by all concerned :

[*Personal.*]

JUDGE ADVOCATE'S OFFICE,
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK CITY, }
March 4, 1884.

COLONEL LOCKE W. WINCHESTER,

Commanding Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y. :

MY DEAR COLONEL: I return herewith the copy of the bill introduced into the Assembly to amend the Military Code of the State.

The section which you had marked proposes as the sole amendment to the present Section 75, to declare it unlawful, and to make it "a misdemeanor for any body of men whatsoever, other than the "regular organized corps of the National Guard and Militia, and "the troops of the U. S., except such independent military organizations as are now in existence, * * * *to assume to use any "title or titles representing military rank or grade."*

This penal clause is broad enough to include, if so desired, those highly respectable organizations known as the "Grand Army of the Republic" and "Boys in Blue," in which certain military titles are used, and the "New York Commandery of the Loyal Legion of the U. S.," in which membership is dependent upon honorable service in the War of the Rebellion. It would also legislate directly against those who were officers of Volunteers in that war, and honorably mustered out of U. S. service, and who, by Section 1,226 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, are "entitled to bear the official title, and upon occasions of ceremony to wear the uniform of "the highest grade they have held by brevet or other commissions "in the Volunteer Service."

For these and other obvious reasons the proposed amendment ought to be opposed and will certainly fail of enactment,

Neither the present Military Code, or the proposed amendment, affects in any way whatever the *status* of that honorable body of

which you are the Commandant, because the "Veterans of the "Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y.," Chartered by the Legislature by that name, and being "an independent military organization—although not "regularly organized as an organization of the National Guard"—are specially excepted in the section as now existing from all of its penal prohibitions, and you may wear such uniforms as you please, and the designations of grades of office recognized in your acts of incorporation, and parade when you please, unless such parades should be appointed for days when the National Guard are forbidden to parade.

You are, however, made subject, by the present Military Code, "to the orders of the Commander-in-Chief in case of emergency or "necessity, to aid the National Guard in quelling invasion, insurrection, riot, or breach of the peace," a duty you have already on several occasions performed under arms most satisfactorily to the community.

I saw, with regret, in the daily papers of February 19th an extra-official statement, signed by several commanding officers in the National Guard, reflecting upon the legal designation and uniform of your independent military organization.

If the Governor, as Commander-in-Chief of the State, had called upon those gentlemen for their official opinions on a military question in their collective capacity, such concerted action and use of military titles to their signatures would have been appropriate.

In the absence of such requirement, or of any law or general regulation authorizing it, such action, collectively or individually, was *extra official*, and no more an incident of their official station than this personal letter of mine to you.

The commentary is all the more pointed when it is considered that complaint is therein made of the alleged misuse of military titles by others, and also of the use by your organization of the name given to it by the Legislature, nearly a quarter of a century ago.

Some of the gentlemen whose names were attached to that document were undoubtedly misinformed, and I am glad to see that several have already either withdrawn them or contemplate doing so.

Citizens of New York, who, like myself, know how your organization came into existence as a part of the Reserve Militia, and what its

members have done for the Nation and State, and for the splendid Regiment from which they have, as it were, graduated, cannot but feel that great injustice has been done your command.

Mr. William Swinton, the historian, in his history of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y. (edition 1870), says: "The 9th of May, 1859, is an historic day in the annals of that Regiment, because it was then, that the famous Association of the exempt members of the Seventh Regiment was organized, called the '*Veterans of the National Guard*.'"

You know that from the outset, the organization was essentially military and regimental, and instituted on that basis, each company containing those who had formerly served in the like company of the active regiment.

When civil war seemed imminent, the organization sought legislative recognition, and was duly incorporated March 11th, 1861, as "The Veterans of the National Guard, Seventh Regiment, 1st Division, New York State Militia," a title changed by the Legislature in 1878, to that of "The Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y."

I have been informed by Charter members that the object of Legislative recognition was to make the organization more efficient for military purposes in the emergency then arising, as otherwise they would have incorporated under the general law, or continued a voluntary military association as before.

One of the objects specified in the Act of 1861, for your incorporation, was "to preserve and continue the recollections of service in the National Guard," and I recall, that the veterans proceeded immediately to do so by forming a Uniformed Battalion, for such military service as might be necessary, of all such exempt and honorably discharged members as chose to uniform themselves.

As the titles of the officers of the organization were strictly military, and of a regimental character, the Legislature recognized their use for such purpose, when it declared in the Act that *those officers should hold their respective offices until others were chosen in their stead*.

Again, by the Act of April 19, 1882, in which the Legislature proceeded to authorize the creation of a "Benevolent Fund of the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y." it enacted that

such "*fund shall be administered by officers of said Association, who shall be the Colonel, Paymaster, and Chaplain of said Association, as Trustees.*"

This was a distinctive Legislative recognition for the second time, of the titular military officers of a regimental character in your organization, and of the succession therein; and, until the Legislature shall, by special act amend this law, you, and Paymaster Edward A. Kingsland, and Chaplain, the Rev. J. Tuttle Smith, D.D., and your successors in office, can only administer this fund by these special legal titles.

In looking over your Act of Incorporation of 1861, I find among the incorporators such honored citizens as John M. Catlin, long Colonel of the active regiment and the first Colonel of the Veterans; Linus W. Stevens, who succeeded him in April, 1861, in Command of the Veterans; Morgan L. Smith, Washington R. Vermilye, Andrew A. Bremner, and Brigadier and Brevet Major-General Abram Duryee, late U. S. Vols., each of whom had been Colonels of the active regiment.

Also Brevet Brig.-General Charles Roome, late U. S. Vols., who was in 1861 Captain of one of the Veteran Companies and previously Captain in the active regiment; Philetus H. Holt, David T. Valentine, and Adjutant Asher Taylor, of the Veteran organization, who was the first man, when in the active regiment, to wear its present gray uniform.

Another incorporator was the lamented Marshal Lefferts, who was Colonel of the active regiment from 1859-1864, and afterward Colonel of the Veteran Organization, and who died in its uniform when accompanying it to Philadelphia in 1876.

Surely these well-known citizens must have known the objects of their organization.

Mr. Swinton has graphically described how, when the Seventh Regiment was about to proceed, in April, 1861, to the defense of the Capitol, the Veterans assembled by order of their Colonel, Linus W. Stevens; and Colonel Lefferts formally turned over to his organization, the protection of the armory.

On April 27, 1861, four hundred and twenty-nine members were enrolled in the Veteran Organization, and on April 30, 1861, Colonel Stevens officially reported his command for duty to the late

Major-General Charles Sandford, then Commanding the First Division, New York State Militia, and they were armed and equipped by the State, with such arms and accouterments as it had at its disposal.

During your absence as a Commissioned Officer with the active regiment, I witnessed a drill by Colonel Stevens, in May, 1861, of the Uniformed Battalion of the Veteran organization in the old armory, at which between three and four hundred paraded under arms, uniformed in gray shell jackets, gray fatigue caps, and black trousers.

They subsequently formally escorted the active regiment on its return from Virginia.

The uniform was certainly not an appropriate one for gentlemen of mature years, but it will be difficult to perceive what can be found fault with, in their present neat and serviceable dress of dark blue, which no one can mistake for the gray of the active regiment, and which was adopted in 1874, largely through the efforts of Colonel Lefferts.

It is true, an effort has been made in the extra-official statement to bring into disrepute the uniform of the Veteran Organization, although the Military Code is particularly careful by its excepting clauses, not to infringe upon or prohibit it from wearing whatever uniform it may desire.

You may console yourself, however, my dear Colonel, by the reflection that the services of your Organization in 1861, in the draft riots of 1863, and railroad riots of 1877, have not been forgotten.

From April, 1861, to the present time your command has continued to preserve and maintain its distinctive military character as an independent military organization in the Reserve Militia, and to parade in uniform, armed and equipped as by law provided, when public emergency required it, and, on other occasions, merely with side-arms, the latest of such parades having been on the official occasion of the Centennial Celebration in the City of New York, on November 26, 1883, of its evacuation by the British forces in 1783.

The advantage to the State of having ready, at the Commander-in-Chief's call, a corps of citizens uniformed and organized, who have by faithful voluntary military service to the State for a term of

years acquired exemption from ordinary military duty, is apparent, and the present Military Code distinctly recognizes this fact as to those organizations in existence at its adoption.

The objection that members of the active regiment prefer, on termination of their term of service, to take their honorable discharge and join the Veteran Corps, and that the efficiency of the active regiment is thereby impaired, can have no foundation, when it is considered, as I am credibly informed, that most of the companies of the active regiment are at a maximum.

I think the gentlemen of your organization ought not to be disturbed at the indirect attack made upon it, because it stands in so different a position from purely voluntary associations unrecognized by law, and which have never had a distinctive military character.

As a conservator of the peace your command has shown its advantage for twenty-three years, and any effort to withdraw the respect of the members of the active regiment for its Veteran Organization ought to meet with discouragement.

I am, my dear Colonel, very truly yours,

ASA BIRD GARDNER.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

In the new Military Code of the State of New York, enacted by the Legislature April 23, 1883 (*Chapter 299*), and entitled "An Act to provide for the enrollment of the Militia, for the organization and government of the National Guard of the State of New York, and for the *public defense*," appears certain portions of sections which may be considered as new legislation relative to *future* organizations or associations of a military character.

As they are alluded to by Colonel Emmons Clark in his foregoing circular, dated February 26, 1884, and given by him a construction entirely opposed to their context and clear Legislative intent, they are reprinted in order to show that the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment N. G. S. N. Y. are directly excepted from their operation, and in no way limited thereby or deprived of any pre-existing right, privilege, or immunity.

(*Extracts from the Military Code.*)

" *Section 59.* * * * Any person not a member of the National Guard (*the organizations included in section seventy-five of this act excepted*), who shall wear any uniform or designation of grade similar to those in use by the National Guard, *issued** under the provisions of the Military Code, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than one, nor more than two, months, or by a fine of not more than one hundred, nor less than fifty, dollars. * * *

" *Section 75.*—It shall not be lawful, but it shall be a misdemeanor, for any body of men whatsoever, other than the regular organized corps of the National Guard and *Militia* and the troops of the United States, *except such independent military organizations as are now in existence*,† to associate themselves together as a military company or organization, or to parade in public with fire-arms in any city or town of this State; * * * *provided*, that associations wholly composed of soldiers honorably discharged from the service of the United States may parade in public with fire-arms on Decoration Day, or upon the reception of any regiments or companies of soldiers returning from said service, and for the purpose of escort duty at the burial of deceased soldiers; * * * and *provided further*, that this section shall not be construed to prevent any organization, authorized to do so by law, from parading with fire-arms.

* The only uniforms or designations of grade which can be *issued* under the provisions of the Military Code are those prescribed for *enlisted men*, such designations of grade being indicated by chevrons, common to all the Militia of the Union. Commissioned officers are required by the Code to provide their own uniforms and designations of rank (Sec. 51, 52). None are issued to them.

† When this section was submitted to the Legislature in 1883 for adoption, it undertook to except from its penal provisions and prohibitions, and from those of Section 59, the troops of the United States and National Guard, and only "such independent military organizations as are now in existence BY LAW." The Legislature deliberately struck out the words "*by law*," before enacting it, so that not only *all* independent military organizations then in existence (April 23, 1883) *by law* under legislative acts, like the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, or Twenty-second Regiment, or Old Guard, of the Reserve Militia, or the Albany Burgess Corps or Utica Citizens' Corps, were specially excepted, but also those purely *voluntary* uniformed military associations, such as the veterans of the Thirteenth, Twenty-third, Sixty-ninth, and Seventy-first Regiments N. G. S. N. Y., and the Lincoln Guard of the City of New York, Jackson Corps of Albany, Buffalo City Guard, Greenleaf Guard of Rochester, and the like, were likewise excepted, and at liberty, as heretofore, to wear such uniforms and designations of rank as they pleased, and parade in public when they might find it desirable, subject only to such restrictions as to times of parade as are common to the National Guard.

“ *All independent military organizations* now existing, not regularly organized as organizations of the National Guard*, are hereby made subject to the orders of the Commander-in-Chief in case of emergency or necessity, to aid the National Guard in quelling invasion, insurrection, riot, or breach of the peace, provided the officers and members of such organizations shall, when so called upon, first sign and execute and deliver, through the *Commandant*, to the National Guard commander, to which said organization is ordered to report, a form of enlistment, in form to be prescribed by the Commander-in-Chief in regulations or orders, for a term not less than thirty days nor more than ninety days at one time; and in case the services of such organizations shall not be required for the full term of their enlistment, they shall be discharged by order of the Commander-in-Chief.

“ All members of such independent organizations, when called into the service of the State, as herein provided for, shall then be armed,† equipped, and paid by the State, and shall be protected in the discharge of their duties, as though a part of the National Guard of the State, and in obeying the orders of the Commander-in-Chief.

“ *Section 76.*—Whoever offends against any of the provisions of the preceding section, or belongs to, or parades with, any such unauthorized body of men with fire-arms, or fails to respond to do duty when called upon by the Commander-in-Chief, in case of necessity or emergency, and after enlisting or refusing to enlist, as provided in the preceding section, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding the sum of ten dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not exceeding six months, or both.”

* In none of these independent military organizations, even those existing under Legislative Charters, are the officers commissioned by the Governor, although, as they belong to the *Militia* there is nothing in the law to prevent his doing so—in his discretion.

† The *intent* of the Legislature is here very apparent, as it is well known that some of the purely voluntary and unchartered, independent military uniformed associations, like the Veterans of the Thirteenth, Twenty-third, and Seventy-first Regiments, N. G. S. N. Y. have usually paraded only with side arms and not with muskets.

NOTE.—Prior to the year 1879 it was customary for many years, in the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., and in some other regiments of the 1st Division, for many members of companies who had served their time, and were entitled to claim their full and honorable discharges on account of expiration of service, to continue in such companies, and, in consequence, such companies often far exceeded the maximum prescribed by the Military Code.

By a tacit understanding such members who were entitled to discharge, attended such drills and parades, as their business or professional occupations would permit, but, in case of absences therefrom they were not reported as delinquents, in like manner, as the other members of their companies who had not served their time, nor were they required to attend Courts-Martial and make excuses for such absences, or be fined, except in extreme cases.

In 1879 the then Inspector-General undertook to enforce strictly the Military Code, a policy since pursued, and to insist that no company, should have a greater number of members on its roll, than the law permitted, and that all delinquents, should be reported, and that the aggregate attendance at drills and parades, of the effective strength of such company, should be considered as one of the elements in determining its relative standing, during the year for efficiency and discipline.

This policy compelled the discharge of many old members, who otherwise would have continued in their respective companies.

In 1880, the Legislature, in amending the then "Military Code," undertook to meet this difficulty, by providing that members of companies, on expiration of their enlistment, might *re-enlist for one or more years*.

Only a small number chose to avail themselves of this privilege, for the very natural reason that, being exempt by law from ordinary military duty, they did not care to be amenable to the requirements of constant, regular drills and stated parades, when possibly their avocations might interpose serious obstacles to regular attendance.

This was peculiarly the case of exempt members engaged in clerical or professional occupations.

Had they been allowed to continue in their former quasi-honorary status in their respective companies, they would have performed from year to year, such ordinary military duty as they were able, and when they were able.

For the reasons above mentioned, and it is not disputed that the present policy of the State is a judicious one, founded on sound military principles, it has resulted, that, but a small percentage of the members of the companies in the active regiment, would consent to continue their connection with it, and thus subject themselves to the burdens of ordinary military duty beyond the time when the State had enabled them to claim such exemption.

With this condition of affairs, the Veteran Organization of the Seventh Regiment has, of course, had nothing to do; but it has been able to enroll, uniform, and retain for duty, in order to aid the National Guard in any emergency, many honorably discharged members of the "Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y.," who would, otherwise have become lost in the mass of citizens.

As most of the companies of the Seventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., to-day, are at a maximum, notwithstanding the loss by discharge of many of those who had served their time, it will be perceived, that there is no foundation for the statement, that the existence of the battalion of the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, has been to induce young men who would otherwise continue to perform active military duty in the National Guard, to take their discharge from the service of the State, to join such organization.

We rejoice at the present honorable position of the active regiment, and that its ranks are nearly full; and we trust that it will continue in the future to maintain the proud reputation it has held in the Militia of the country and in this community during the past sixty years.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE,

L. W. WINCHESTER,

Colonel and Chairman.





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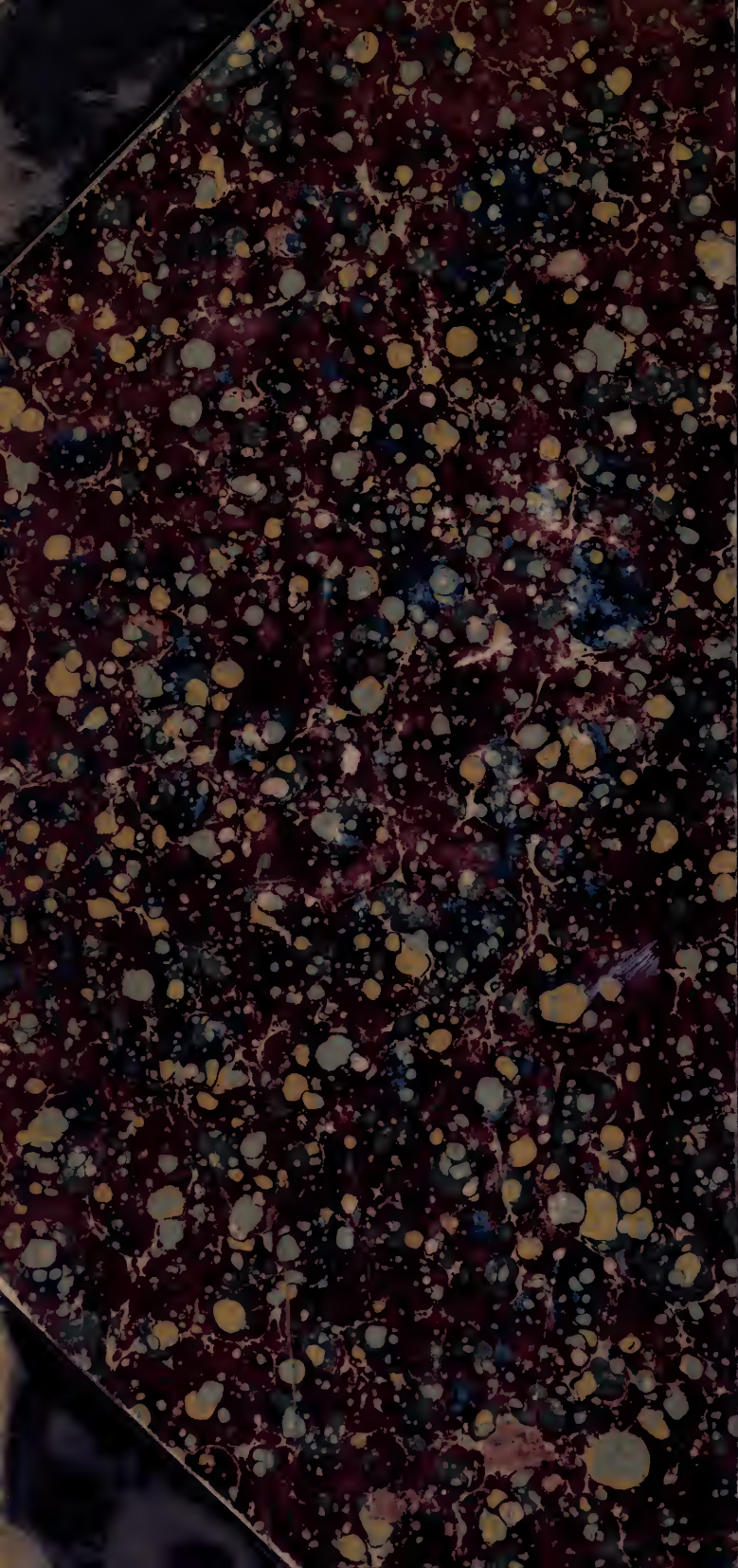
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